

AnimeMangaDaisuki, KUROBASU REPLACE 3 chapter 1

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

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Replace III

The summer festival of Kiseki

- **Chapter 1 If the Generation of Miracles were in Yukatas.**

The knocking sound of wooden clogs echoed throughout the residential street that has been enveloped by the rays of the setting sun.

Clad in yukatas, men, women, the young and the old mingled among the crowd of people who are donning everyday clothes. They headed towards the shrine where the Summer Festival was being held with smiles on their faces. One of these people was a young girl wearing a pink colored yukata with floral prints on it. She looked around in the crowd. This is Momoi Satsuki who has her hair tied up in a pretty style. Unlike the people in the crowd, she was pouting with displeasure.

“Dai-chan, you’re walking too slowly!” “You’re damn annoying. It doesn’t matter if I’m a bit slow. Even if you rush, it’s not like it changes anything.” Momoi’s childhood friend, Aomine Daiki retorted, an annoyed look on his face, in response to the cause of Momoi’s displeasure. Aomine is also different from usual, wearing a navy colored yukata. “Also, shouldn’t you stop calling me Dai-chan already?” “Why? When I called you ‘Aomine-kun’, didn’t you say it was strange?” Momoi started calling Aomine ‘Aomine-kun’ after she entered Middle school. That was because she gets teased when she calls him ‘Dai-chan’, so she had no choice but to change her way of addressing him to ‘Aomine-kun’. But when it’s just the two of them, she would address the other party in the way she was used to. However, unbeknownst to Momoi, this only made Aomine more irritated. Even though Momoi rushed him with a “Hurry up!”, Aomine would just sigh without changing his pace. After Aomine dragged his footsteps until he is next to her, Momoi started walking next to him. “ Given that we hardly go out in Yukatas, of course anyone would want to enjoy the summer festival as much as possible right?” “I can still enjoy myself even if I’m dressed as per usual.” In response to Aomine’s retort, Momoi stubbornly said “That may be true but it’s more enjoyable wearing a yukata. And Granny specially made them for us too.” Momoi raised one of her sleeves and looked at it. The yukatas worn by her and Aomine were both tailored by her Granny. On the last day of the school term, also known as yesterday, Momoi went to her Granny’s house after school. It was because her Granny called her and told her to make a detour to her house. What her Granny passed to her was the Yukata she was wearing now. Seeing Momoi happily try the Yukata on, Her Granny also smiled* (^_^) as said “I prepared this too.” And handed Momoi another yukata. The navy colored men’s yukata was prepared for Aomine. Her Granny still remembered that every year, both of them would go to the Summer festival together.

T/N: The way the granny smiled was described as squinting her eyes like this (^_^) unable to describe in words so I use emoticons.

“Although Granny was worried that that Aomine wouldn’t be able to fit into it, it actually fits you quite well.” Momoi assessed the Yukata clad Aomine once more. Even though he’s the childhood friend whom she was always with, after he wore a yukata, it was a kind of refreshing feeling. “Well...it’s okay, I guess.”

Aomine answered unenthusiastically. “Eh...that’s all you feel about it?” Momoi was unsatisfied by the answer but whatever it is, he still came wearing a yukata. So she can let it slide with that sort of answer. “What...What are you

smiling about?" Aomine frowned when he saw Momoi's expression. "Eh, Ah...Erm....Aomine kun, this Yukata suits you very well." Momoi said while smiling.

"Really?"

"Yep. Both your skin and the Yukata are dark so if someone sees you late at night, all they see would be your eyes. That would be pretty scary."

"You!!"

"But, that's the truth." Both of them bickered like that all the way to the shrine where the summer festival was held. At the entrance of the Shirine, Momoi couldn't help but exclaim "Wow~~" As though filling up the entire path, the stores opened at the temple fair were lined up along the path. Even though the sun has not set yet, the booths have already had their lamps lit and the dazzling lights filled the entire street. The trees in the surrounding area had their branches extended and interlocked as though protecting the path, forming a large gate. Even though they came here every year, but upon seeing this scene, it really makes people excited.

The lights lit up Momoi's face and Aomine made an irritated sound next to her. "Oi, aren't there too many people?" "Because every year, the long awaited shrine carriages would parade this area so that's why there are so many people. Ne, let's go!" Momoi pushed Aomine and walked towards the shrine. Putting coin offerings into the shrine bow, Momoi prayed earnestly "I hope Aomine can go through this summer holiday smoothly. He can finish his homework and not get injured during practice" and " I hope I can get closer to that person..."

T/N: It's not really coin offerings. In Chinese and Japanese religious tradition, the coin offerings or donations are actually referred to as "Joss stick money" literally. Basically, we give money to the shrines and temples so they can buy joss sticks so we can use in prayers.

After giving her offerings, Momoi looked at the temple fair and asked "So, where should we go first?" She raised her head to look at Aomine only to receive an unexpected answer.

"I'll wait for you at that resting area."

"Eh?" Momoi's eyes widened. The resting area that Aomine was referring to was a simple shelter with tables and chairs. It was set up for people who bought snacks from the stores to eat, it was akin to a resting area. Momoi pressed further, flustered. "Wh...Why?! You don't want to look around?" "There's too many people, it's troublesome. Just buy something for me to eat...ah, meat is good, I want meat." "Eh, Meat? A-re?A-re?" "So, that's it. I'll wait for you." "Wait, wait a minute, Dai-chan!?" Aomine said "Thanks" and waved his hand, quickly walking off to the resting area.

T/N: Aomine actually said "Onegaishimasu." "Please do me that favor".

"You got to be joking..." Momoi was left there gaping.

She was actually looking forward to the temple fair, but being alone killed the excitement by half.

Stupid Dai-chan! And to think that I specially prayed for you, return me my donation money! Momoi scolded Aomine in her mind while walking through the temple fair and then... "Momoi-san?" A clear voice with a transparent feeling called out her name. At that moment, all the anger towards Aomine was gone and a faint feeling of joy spread. Momoi could not have been mistaken, it was his voice.

"Tetsu-kun!"

"Yes. Ah, I'm over here." Perhaps not wanting to see Momoi looking around frantically for him, Kuroko waved his hand so Momoi could see his location. Anyway, Kuroko's figure appeared before Momoi. "Te.TeTeTe, Tetsu-kun! The

Yukata, it really suits you!!" "Thank you."

Rather than saying her greetings, Momoi expressed her opinions first. Kuroko wearing a Yukata moved her completely.

Kuroko, who was wearing a black striped Yukata said "Momoi-san looks very nice wearing that Yukata" and it completely blew away her rationality.

"Te,Tetsu kun...!"

The 100 yen donation was totally worth it...!

Momoi thanked the gods in a ditzy manner. Seeing that Momoi seems to be in a joyful daze, Kuroko said another statement that brought her back to Earth.

"Isn't Aomine kun with you?"

"About that...Tetsu-kun, it's like this!"

Momoi talked about Aomine going to the resting area alone and instructing her "Just buy something back." After hearing that, Kuroko said with a serious look on his face "That's just like Aomine-kun."

"Tetsu-kun, are you here by yourself?"

In response to Momoi's question, Kuroko nodded. "Even though I came here with Kandou-kun...Kandou-kun said that he had some urgent matters and went home first."

T/N: This Kandou-kun was mentioned in the first Replace novel. If you're wondering who he is, he was also in Kuroko's primary school class. If you reverse the Kanji characters of Kandou, you get...Fujimaki...guess he needs to rush home to finish the manuscript for the next chapter of KnB.

"I see..." Momoi replied and heaved a sigh of relief. ...Maybe, this is an opportunity given to me. Momoi's face reddened and she gathered up the courage to call Kuroko's name. "...Te, Tetsu-kun!"

"Yes?" "I,I, If you don't mind, Do...Should we have fun together?" "Eh?"

"Even though I have to get Aomine-kun something, but if I just buy something, it's just regrettable. I want him to be a bit anxious. But it's also boring just going to this night market by myself..." After hearing Momoi's explanation, Kuroko sighed with a "Ha..." and answered, a bit troubled. "But, won't Aomine kun be angry?" "Eh!?" "His mood would get bad if he's hungry."

"Erm...well...I guess... Momoi was bothered by Kuroko's blunt statement. Just as expected from Aomine's partner, he really understands Aomine well. "If it's just for a while..." just as Momoi was feeling troubled, Kuroko said softly "Oh right."

"How about you tell Aomine that you took so long because you were walking around with me?"

"Eh?"

Facing Momoi who looked surprised, "With that, I don't think Aomine-kun would blame you" Kuroko said somewhat playfully. (^_^) This slightly cunningly joyful expression moved Momoi once more. Thank you! Kandou-kun!! Momoi thanked the same year student whom she had never met in her heart. "You're right! If I'm with Tetsu-kun, I don't think Aomine-kun would get angry at all."

"Then, that's decided." Let's go, Kuroko said and Momoi felt as if she was strolling on the top of clouds.

Although Momoi was completely over the moon with joy, she couldn't get distracted. Because if she doesn't pay attention, Kuroko would disappear.

T/N: Kuroko, I swear you are a Youkai or something.

So both of them went to the Balloon Fishing shop first. Kuroko suggested it because "I actually quite like this game." He had said. After taking the fishing apparatus from the shop owner, Kuroko squatted next to the water tank which held the water balloons. "They're so pretty!" Momoi squatted on Kuroko's right side after receiving her fishing apparatus. Because he liked the game, Kuroko easily fished up the water balloons. A transparent red one, an opaque blue one and a transparent one with threads inside...various water balloons went into the small vessel that Kuroko was holding. In comparison, Momoi's net tore after fishing up a few small balloons.

T/N: This is the part where's I'm confused. Because balloon fishing uses a string and hook. At least, that's how it was when I played it. But the translation here refers to a net...hmm... "Uuu~What a pity. I wanted that one." Momoi stared at the last balloon she was aiming at. "Which one?" Kuroko followed Momoi's line of sight. "Eh...? That one, the one over there. I want that slightly big and transparent pinkish balloon, but..." "I understand, it's that one over that right?" The target Kuroko was aiming for was the balloon Momoi was referring to.

Do,Don't tell me Tetsu-kun is doing this for me!? Momoi's eyes widened and she pinched her cheeks. It hurts. Looks like this isn't a dream.

Te,Tetsu-kun, for my sake!! As Momoi was deeply moved by this turn of events, she, like Kuroko, fixed her gaze on that balloon. The pink balloon, while being stared at by a burning and calm gaze at the same time, moved with the currents and circled the tank before wobbling towards Kuroko's direction. However, just as it drifted pass Momoi , it seemed as though it was about to float towards Kuroko when... "Yo-SHA! Let's see what I can do!" From the right side, a net appeared and quickly that pink balloon was fished up.

"Eh!?"

Not comprehending the situation, Momoi quickly turned to her right to see who fished the balloon, "You wanted this right!? Here, for you!" It wasn't clear when he was there, but there was a high school youth wearing black framed glasses on Momoi's right side. "Eh, that...?" Seeing Momoi with a confused look on her face, the youth took the pink balloon from his vessel and passed it to her.

"You were staring at this balloon from earlier right? So I'm giving it to you as a present. By the way, are you alone? Do you want to play together with us?" "Us" Seemingly referred to another youth squatting next to this boy's right side. He also seems to be a high school student, he smiled and waved at Momoi "Hello~", the several chain bracelets and his wrist dangled, making a clinking sound as he waved.

"This Yukata, it really suits you~~. What's your name? Are you a high school student?" "Um, that, I have to decline! I'm with here with a friend."

Momoi got up flustered, the black frame bespectacled boy and the bracelet boy also stood up. "Oh, your friend is here too, isn't that great! It good, we have two people here, two guys and two girls matching up is just fine, isn't it?No, there are three boys. And thinking about it, I think it's nowhere near appropriate." "Eh?....YI!?" The black frame bespectacled boy stared widely. He was staring at the beauty while trying to hit on her but suddenly, a youth with extremely low presence appeared in front of him. "What!? You, You you, where did you show up from!?" The high school students took a step back in fright. Seizing that chance, Kuroko placed his hand on Momoi's shoulder as if he was rushing her."Momoi-san, let's go." "Ah, Un." And just like that, with her back towards the high school boys, Kuroko pushed her away from this place.

The high school students took a while to recover from the initial shock, they exclaimed "What was that just now!?" "Where did he come from?" But those statements did not reach Momoi and Kuroko who had left earlier.

While walking, Momoi heaved a sigh of relief. "Thank you, Tetsu-kun...Sorry for dragging you into that strange situation." Momoi's shoulders slumped. It was a rare chance for Kuroko to notice her and he also wanted to help her get that balloon too. It was all ruined. Seeing a depressed Momoi, Kuroko gently consoled her, "It's okay."

"Besides, I should be apologising to you instead. If only I had more presence during those kinds of situations...Like that." Kuroko pointed in the distant direction of the crowd. Momoi looked in the same direction with an "Eh?" The person who was being pointed at was two heads above the crowd he was trying to mingle in.

That was someone you definitely cannot overlook moving through the crowd, a giant you'll definitely try to look at again.

There was no mistake, it was Murasakibara Atsushi. Perhaps it was for the summer festival atmosphere, he was wearing a sleeveless Yukata today, and therefore looks more outstanding than normal.

"Murasakibara-kun." Kuroko raised his arm and waved. "Ah, it's Kuro-chin~~.A-re, Sa-cchin is here too~~"

Noticing Momoi and Kuroko, Murasakibara quickly parted the crowd and walked towards them. And next to Murasakibara, it was someone whom they did not expect.

"Kuroko, Momoi. I didn't think I would meet you two in this sort of place." Wearing a Yukata made out of white fabric with a flying dragon motif with his arms crossed- Akashi Seijurou.

"Did Akashi-kun accompany Murasakibara-kun here to play?" "No. We just met by coincidence~~" Murasakibara answered drawling. "Aka-chin said that he's going to participate in a Shogi competition later~~" "Shogi competition? Is it being held here?" Momoi asked Akashi, a bit confused. He nodded. "Someone I know requested that I participate. It seems as if he wanted to make sure that there are enough people."

"Would there be an opponent who would interest you?" Kuroko asked, Akashi smiled (^_~) "Who knows..." Then he lowered his head to look at his watch.

"It's almost time for it to start...Murasakibara, I'll contact you later."

"Ok. I'll be counting on you~~"

Murasakibara and the rest watched as Akashi left until his figure blended into the crowd and disappeared. "Mu-kun, did you and Akashi-kun make some sort of arrangement?"

Hearing Momoi's question, Murasakibara nodded vigorously. "Yep! It seems that the first prize for the shogi competition is a gift box with sweets inside. Akachin said that after the competition, he'll give me the sweets." "Already deciding that victory is certain even before the competition begins..."

"But, I don't think Akashi-kun would lose."

"You're right~~~" "That's true..." Murasakibara and Momoi agreed with Kuroko's opinion.

Because Murasakibara said "I want to eat Soy sauce Rice crackers after this~~", the three of them went to look for the booth that sold soy sauce rice crackers and unexpectedly, met another familiar face.

At the hoop throwing store alone was a troubled Midorima Shintarou. "Midorin, is there something wrong?" Due to Momoi's greeting, Midorima who was seriously playing the hoop throwing turned around. He was wearing a black Yukata with white prints and this made him look more mature than he usually did at school.

"Momoi...and, Kuroko and Murasakibara are here too." "So Midorima-kun can also play games such as hoop-throwing." Midorima readjusted his spectacles and immediately denied Kuroko's statement.

"I am not playing."

"Then what's with all the hoops in your hand."

"I'm just proving the fact that I'm always doing my best, that's all."

T/N: What Midorima says is actually that he's trying to prove the "Man proposes" part of his "Man proposes and God disposes" statement. Quite surprised when I realised my Dad advised me using this statement too...

Midorima tightly clutched the hoops used in this game. "This hoop-throwing game has many prizes. I just thought there should be some among them that can act as my backup for my lucky-items." Momoi looked at the goods in the store. By Midorima's perspective, there were indeed a wide variety of prizes. Next to the obligatory snack prizes, there was actually a statue of Buddha. There were empty cans placed in front of the various prizes. The rule seems to be that if you can get the hoop over the can, you can get the prize.

"Which one do you want?" "The god-welcoming doll placed in the middle of the shelf.

".....That has personality." "That's right. It's a rare find. If I get that, even if my lucky item is supposed to be 'An item to welcome the gods' or a 'doll' or 'something that can scare children' (This doll's attire and mask can freak children out), this one can fit all that perfectly." ".....That sounds troublesome."

Momoi was once again defeated by Midorima's burning obsession. Midorima thought Momoi's 'troublesome' referred to the hoop throwing, so he nodded as though meaning "That's how it is."

"If it's shooting basketball hoops, obviously I can do this easily, but if it's hoop throwing, I'm not that good at it. And it's the shelf in the middle too. The aiming needs to be precise, how difficult..."

Midorima gripped the hoops tightly and glared at the God-Welcoming Doll in fury. Even in competitions, Midorima had never had such a detestable look on his face.

"Is it really that difficult~~? Just lightly throw it and you'll get it."

Murasakibara said with a sleepy look on his face. "Murasakibara, what does someone like you who doesn't use his brain know!" "Really..." Murasakibara paid for a round to the owner, and after taking the hoops "Just like this is fine..." and extended his arm.

"What!?" This amazing sight made Midorima, Momoi and even Kuroko gasp.

Murasakibara's extended arm, is extremely close to the prize shelf. "Un...this one would do" Murasakibara tossed the ring towards the empty can in front of some cookies. Or more accurately, he only used strength equivalent of "lightly placing something". The hoop was hooped over the empty can steadily.

This situation which happened only for a split second caused Kuroko and group and the store owner to gape in shock.

"See~~It's easy~~" Murasakibara turned and faced Midorima, smiling slightly. Midorima, however, grabbed Murasakibara's shoulders. "Muraskibara...this is the first time I actually felt that you were useful in something other than on the court!"

"Midorin, that's so mean!" Even though Momoi wanted reprimand Midorima but Murasakibara just cocked his head questioning "Eh? What are you referring to?"

"Murasakibara, get that one as well!"

Midorima pointed to the doll with a serious look on his face but Murasakibara just tilted his head.

“Eh~~, why~~~?”

“Don’t think about it too much, just get it!”

“...Murasakibara-kun, Midorima-kun said that he’ll treat you to candied apples later.” Kuroko’s statement made Murasakibara eyes light up. “Eh, is that so?”

“Kuroko! Don’t decide that on your own!”

Midorima turned and stared at Kuroko, but Kuroko just replied softly “But...”

“Against Murasakibara-kun, this method is the most effective.”

“Urgh...! Ok. Murasakibara, I’ll pay for that and treat you to candied apples too.” “Ok. I got it~~” Murasakibara answered energetically. He gently raised his arm and released the hoop.

Then, as though attracted by the can in front of the doll, the hoop went around the empty can.

“Good. Next is that lion plushie!”

“Ok. Add on one serving of shaved ice~~”

“...Fine” Swoosh.

“Now, that metallic doll!”

“And cotton candy too~~” “Damn.....I got it” Swoosh. “And that toy car over there!”

“Lemonade soda candy sounds good too~~”

“You still want to eat! Enough already!” Swoosh.

And through that exchange, the prizes all gradually became Murasakibara’s belongings.

Midorima carried the bags full of prizes and looked into his wallet, frowning.

“This was an unexpected expenditure...But, I never thought that Murasakibara’s long arms can actually have use here.”

“Midori-chin, don’t forget our arrangement~~”

Standing next to Midorima, Murasakibara smiled, satisfied. While attending to Midorima’s hoop requests, he also ended up with an armful of the snacks that he likes.

“Somehow, I’m kind of pissed off...” Momoi asked the store owner about the main rules. The store owner held his tears back and wordlessly stared at Midorima and Murasakibara in protest, but those two didn’t seem to care. According to the rules, Murasakibara did not cheat in any way. Even though it wasn’t cheating, but there wasn’t a need to win all the things in the store, the store owner lamented sadly. “.....I’ll try too.” “Eh?” Hearing Kuroko mumble to himself, Momoi was shocked and the store owner was shaken.

“After seeing Murasakibara, I think I should be able to do it too.” “Un, it’s very easy~~” “Even though there doesn’t seem to be any worthwhile items left.”

After Kuroko paid for the hoops, he asked Momoi.

“Momoi-san, which one do you want?”

“Eh!?”

“The balloon fishing just now, just treat this as making up for not being able to get the balloon you want. Choose whatever you like.”

“Tetsu-kun...!!” Momoi blushed due to Kuroko’s kindness.

“Erm, which one is better...!” Momoi traced her eyes over the empty shelves while Murasakibara mumbled “I would like the fruit candies over there~~” and this made Momoi panic.

“Mu-kun, you can’t! I have priority!” “Eh~~Is it like that?” “Yes!”

“Murasakibara-kun, after I get what Momoi-san wants then I’ll challenge the fruit candies.”

“Un, please do~~”

But, the request wasn’t fulfilled.

“Ok, consolation prize~~!”

The store owner who was close to tears just earlier was now smiling broadly while he announced that All the hoops that Kuroko threw missed.

“...It’s really difficult.”

Kuroko expressed his opinion in regret while Midorima who was standing nearby with his arms crossed added on with a strangely smug look on his face “That’s right.”

“Sorry, Momoi-san” Kuroko said apologetically but Momoi raised her hands, flustered.

“Don’t say that! You don’t have to apologise! It’s the thought that counts! I’m happy enough that Tetsu-kun had the intention.” “But...” “The consolation prize is a prize too”

“!” Kuroko and the rest gathered together, looking at the store owner.

The store owner took a cardboard box from the back of the shelves “There, just choose one from here”. Momoi moved closer. Inside the paper box was the word “Defects” written using a marker pen. “.....” Momoi and group stared at the box’s contents silently. There were Kendamas, marbles, paper balloons and old items that seemed like they were from the Showa era. The consolation prizes seemed more like a warehouse cleanup...everyone thought.

“...Momoi-san, is there anything that you want?”

“Um...Ah, this one!”

Seeing Momoi’s choice, both Midorima and Murasakibara’s eyes widened.

“Momoi, what’s good about that!?”

“Sa-cchin, don’t you want to reconsider~~?” “Eh! ? This is quite nice. You think so too, right, Tetsu-kun?” “...I think, as long as Momoi-san likes it, it’s okay.”

“为什么说的这么敷衍！？”

“Why did you say it so half heartedly!?” Momoi looked at the teddy bear she chose carefully. It was definitely not a normal stuffed bear. It had lazy, soulless eyes like Frankenstein’s monster, its head had a Jason mask hanging off it and it was carrying a sickle and electric saw on its back.

But, it was this unique stuffed bear which caught Momoi's eye.

"Although it is a bit different, I think it's kind of adorable."

"I really cannot understand what girls are thinking..."

"But, it's great that you can find something you like." "Kuro-chin, you really can put a positive spin to everything~~"

"Eh?"

The statement that Murasakibara said unintentionally stunned Kuroko.

However, seeing how Momoi is happily hugging the stuffed bear and telling him "Thank you, Tetsu-kun. I'll take good care of this!" Kuroko smiled and said "You're welcome." After saying goodbye to Midorima and Murasakibara who were browsing the sweet stores, Momoi and Kuroko set off once more in a two person group.

"Shouldn't it be about time we go and find Aomine-kun?" As the sky started to darken, they both started to feel hunger pangs. "Aomine-kun should be getting hungry as well." "Ah...un-, but, I still want to make him wait a little longer. How about the both of us get something to eat first."

Hearing Momoi's suggestion, Kuroko forced a smile and answer "I understand."

Walking around the stores nearby, they found a booth selling Takoyaki. Attracted by the fragrance, the two of them queued up in front of the store. It seems like the business of this shop is quite good, there were about 2 or 3 groups before them.

While waiting in queue, Momoi asked "Tetsu-kun, do you prefer seaweed toppings of egg yolk topping?", and other similar questions. Unexpectedly, another person tapped Momoi's shoulder from behind and greeted her with a "Ne, Ne".

Thinking that something might be up, Momoi turned around and saw that there was a young man standing behind her. With short cropped brown hair, wearing a singlet and there were tattoos all the way from his shoulder to his wrist, he was eye-catching. The man smiled at her trying to act familiar.

"Rather than the takoyaki at this store, that one over there is nicer! I'll treat you, do you want to go with me?" "That... I have no interest so forget it." Momoi turned around again in refusal. She felt a sense of regret for turning around without putting up any sort of defense. Also, why did she get hit on again. But the tattooed man didn't seem to care a bit about Momoi's rejection, "Don't be so distant~~You want to eat Takoyaki right? You can eat as much as you want, I'll treat you! Ok ok, let's go~" As though wanting to look at Momoi's expression properly, the tattooed man went closer to her. Because the other party was too close, Momoi stepped back without thinking, putting some distance between them. She was about to protest when, "I don't think you should do that." Kuroko suddenly stood in front of Momoi. The tattooed man was of course, shocked.

"What!? Why, You! Where did you pop out from!!"

He angrily glared at Kuroko.

"She already said that she wasn't interested in other stores. Please go back."

Kuroko said while looking at the tattooed man with no emotions in his eyes.

As though pissed off by how Kuroko is, the tattooed man grabbed his shoulder.

"What the hell, you brat...This has nothing to do with you, scram!"

The man used more strength in order to push Kuroko aside. Although Kuroko grimaced in pain, he stood his ground.

"You bastard, stop looking down on me...!"

The man's voice was filled with fury, and the hand which had a lizard tattoo clamped down hard on Kuroko's shoulder.

The tense atmosphere caused the people around to move away from the war zone and they stood around watching, and then...

"A-reh~~ What are you two doing here?"

A cheerful voice rang out, and suddenly a tall man wearing a Yukata barged in.

The man removed the hat which has been lowered until his eyes cannot be seen from his head.

Flashing a cheerful smile, it was Kise Ryota.

"Ah, Takoyaki huh? That sounds nice, I'll buy from this store too."

As though he did not see the tattooed man at all, Kise happily approached Momoi and Kuroko and started conversing with them, a smile on his face. The tattooed man who got ignored opened his mouth and rushed towards Kise yelling "You little brat!" and then... "Ne, that guy, isn't he the model who got featured on magazines recently!"

"Eh, model!? Which one, which one?"

"No way! He's so handsome!!"

The girls who just realised that Kise Ryota was a model started discussing very passionately. Kise smiled in a very professional manner and said "Hello~" and waved at them, causing a chorus of shrieking "YA~~~"

The tense atmosphere was immediately dissipated. The tattooed man, upon sensing the surrounding atmosphere, started cursing "Damn it, what the hell." And disappeared into the crowd.

"Thank goodness..."

Momoi who had been holding her breath finally relaxed. "I thought Tetsu-kun was going to get beaten up..."

"My apologies..."

Kuroko scratched his cheek, a bit embarrassed.

"So Kurokocchi actually has such a hot blooded side huh~"

After waving to the girls and greeting them, Kise looked at Kuroko with a slightly anxious look on his face.

"If I didn't show up, wouldn't the situation be really bad?"

"Ki-chan, you mean it was intentional!?"

Momoi looked at Kise with some surprise. She thought that this guy definitely got too excited and didn't read the atmosphere and ran up to talk to them. Kise shrugged his shoulders, sighing. "I must say, even if I'm that dense, I definitely can see how tense the atmosphere was just now."

Whatever it was, whatever happened just now does seem like Kise's method of quelling a bad situation.

"Thanks to you guys, the hat that I specially borrowed from the stylist is useless now."

Kise mumbled while spinning the hat on the tip of his finger.

"You specially went to borrow a hat? Why?" "Because I'm too outstanding." Facing Kise who was smiling and teasing his fringe, Kuroko stated "I was actually very grateful to you, but now I don't feel like thanking you at all." Even though there was a little bit of conflict, but the group still managed to buy the takoyaki and they headed towards the end of the street. They walked to a place where there were hardly any people and opened the paper bag. An appetising aroma drifted out.

While deciding who gets to eat which Takoyaki, Momoi realised something.

"Ki-chan, that yukata you're wearing, I haven't seen such a design before."

"Ah, you noticed!?" Kise happily looked down at the Yukata he was wearing.

A light aqua colored yukata that had a disorganised pattern of hand drawn penguins.

"I wore this before during my photoshoot so it was given to me. For a men's yukata, this design is hardly seen."

"So, basically men's Yukatas tend to have simpler designs. Most would choose dark colors. Tetsu-kun's one is black and Aomine-kun also chose a navy colored one.

"Because for men, dark colors are easier to pull off. White might look rather refreshing, but few people wear it, so wearing white takes quite a bit of courage."

Kise finished his statements smiling. For a moment, Momoi and Kuroko did not know how to respond to that.

"What's wrong?"

"...Akashi-kun's Yukata, it was white."

"Eh, really!?"

"Un. And there was a dragon motif on it too..."

"A Dragon! It's way too difficult to pull off this kind of design!" "But it suits him very well."

"Urm..."

As expected of Akashi-kun...!

Although the three of them didn't say it out loud, but they all formed the same opinion in their mind.

After finishing the takoyaki, the paper bag was thrown into the bin. Kise looked at Momoi and thought of something. "Speaking of which..."

"Isn't Aominecchi here with you today?"

"Er...about that..."

Momoi told Kise about the whole incident in which Aomine is waiting for her at the resting area.

"That sounds quite like what Aominecchi would do."

Kise laughed cheerfully.

"Kise-kun, did you also come here by yourself?"

Kuroko asked. "That's right." Kise replied.

"An uncle that I know said that he'll be carrying one of the carriages for the parade later and told me that I have to watch it. I wanted to come here earlier but the road was too congested. The car couldn't move at all."

"....Even if you need to rush here to attend the festival, do you really need to be chauffeured?"

"Wait, what's with that! Momoicchi, what's with that look! I, I'm not that famous! It's because I had a job today, so on the way back, Manager-onee san drove me here."

"True...The road conditions were horrible today. While I was on the way here, I saw that there was a traffic jam." While Kuroko was recalling what he saw, he subconsciously covered his mouth with his hand.

"There were a lot of police cars around too, did something happen?" "An accident maybe...maybe a case happened?"

Momoi nodded in agreement.

"But, the situation isn't that bad. We're still enjoying the summer festival~"

Kise smiled and ended the topic, Kuroko and Momoi smiled and nodded in agreement.

About going with Kuroko and Momoi to browse the booths, Kise actually wanted to reject that offer at first.

Kise whispered in Momoi's ear such that only she can hear and asked "If I went with you guys, won't I just be a light bulb?"

"Eh? Why?" For a moment, Momoi had some confusion but after a while, her face flushed into a bright red.

"It, It's not like that, that sort of thing, you....you don't have to mind it that much! We're just playing together, Un! Like that, I think Tetsu-kun would be happier too!" "...Well, since Momoicchi says it like that, then I don't have any disagreements."

Seeing Momoi stuttering due to embarrassment, Kise laughed gleefully (^o^)

"Then, let's go and walk around the night market! By the way, which shops have you both gone to?"

"Simply put, we played balloon fishing and hoop throwing. And we got these." Kuroko lifted up the plastic bags full of water balloons and showed them to Kise.

"For hoop throwing, Tetsu-kun got this for me."

Momoi also lifted up the stuffed bear and showed it to Kise.

"This...don't tell me Kurokocchi likes these sort of things..."

Kise asked in surprise as he moved closer to look at the bear more closely, Kuroko replied

"No, it's what Momoi-san likes." "Eh, it's quite cute right!?"

Momoi asked. Kise answered "Un..." a bit disturbed.

"Regarding what Momoi likes, I don't really get it at all...ah, but, if you carry this stuffed bear, maybe you won't get hit on that often."

“Really?”

Momoi hugged the bear and stared at it.

“Those who will avoid such a situation would do so. If you carry the bear for other people to see, well, I think most people wouldn’t even want to say hi to you.”

“And given that Kise-kun is so eye-catching, I don’t think anyone would even make an attempt to hit on Momoi.”

“Ah ha ha, I’m not at that level yet...”

“I wasn’t praising you.”

“Eh, it’s that so!?”

“Compared to me, I think Ki-chan is more like to get hit on, right?”

“Ah...but, with Momocchi around, there shouldn’t be a problem. This is called mutual benefit.”

“...Then, aren’t I a bit extra?”

“No, not at all!!!”

Momoi and Kise shouted together.

Because of the unity of the voices, the three of them can’t help but look at each other and they laughed.

So the three of them walked side by side to the lively and crowded fair.

Looking around the open air booths with glass pieces of art work, buying malt candy from the almond sweet shop, taking a shot at the rifle range game...

The place was filled with summer festival enjoyments. But there was something that was a real pain in the neck.

“Momocchi, you’re really amazing.”

Walking leisurely, Kise said with a serious look on his face.”

“Kurokocchi and I are already next to you and all but there are still so many people trying to hit on you.”

“Uu....”

Momoi blushed and bowed her head somewhat apologetically.

From the time the three of them started browsing the fair till now, Momoi had been hit on three times already. Even though Kise and Kuroko got her out of the mess each time, but she felt tired from the annoying and embarrassing situations.

“Don’t tell me this happens every single year?”

“How is that possible! Last year, I never even got hit on once! Even Aomine-kun can vouch for me!”

“...Which means, Aominecchi is your body guard? If you are with Aominecchi, it’s quite hard to find the courage to flirt with you...”

Seeing that Kise is nodding to himself after coming up with that sort of conclusion, Momoi frantically shook her head.

"But, even if I'm not with Aomine-kun, no one comes up to me. When I went to the pool to play, it was quite quiet." Going to the pool to play, that was an incident that occurred during last year's summer holidays.

As there was a long break from club activities, Momoi and Aomine went to the pool. Knowing that she can play at the pool other than the times during swimming lessons, Momoi was very excited about it, however Aomine was a bit strange. It seemed as though something was making him very jumpy. And he kept looking around at the pool.

"Aomine-kun, what's with you?"

Momoi thought it was strange so she asked. Very quickly, she regretted even asking in the first place.

"Aomine-kun said...that at the pool...there will be big chested woman wearing bikinis!"

For Momoi, these kinds of words are embarrassing to say so she just complained to Kise with a reddened face.

"He's the worst! That black skinned pervert, he's black and perverted, A BIG BLACK SKINNED PERVERT!"

Obviously, when Momoi heard Aomine say what he said at the pool, she was very angry "You're too much, I don't care anymore!" And left him. Afterwards, she had a great time playing at the pool by herself, and on the way home, no one hit on her at all. But Momoi didn't say this last part because the unpleasant memories made her mad again.

And the person who knew nothing and is troubled now, is Kise.

Initially, he just wanted to talk about other people flirting with Momoi, but somehow, the topic changed to the pool and for some strange reason, it turned to talking about Aomine's lecherous tendencies. For someone who tends to believe in being harmonious, he struggled but managed to reply.

"Em...that, how should I say it....Aominecchi is a boy after all, it's kinda of unavoidable..."

Kise's forced answer added fuel to the fire.

"Even Ki-chan says that! Then Ki-chan, you're like that too!?"

"Ugh, me!? Besides, Momoicchi, why are you dragging me into this!?"

"Because...!"

"Even if you don't like it, but most boys like this sort of thing....right, Kurokocchi!"

Kise quickly turned to Kuroko for help but Kuroko just said an "Ah?" And blinked his eyes in confusion.

"Ah, sorry. I wasn't listening just now."

"Kurokocchi~~~~!!!"

Kise shouted and somewhere in his heart, he was whining.

"Tetsu-kun is not like that!? Because, I trust him!" Momoi looked at Kuroko in anticipation. Although Kuroko wasn't very sure of the situation, but he still nodded and said "It's my honour to receive your trust."

And thanks to Kuroko's gentlemanly behaviour (?), Momoi's fire was extinguished and Kise, who caused the trouble this time, shouted loudly "Kurokocchi, you're too cunning!"

"Why am I the only one who got scolded..." "I'm sorry, I was thinking about something, so I really didn't listen..."

Kuroko scratched his cheek apologetically.

"Tetsu-kun, what are you thinking about?"

"There's just something I noticed..."

Just when Kuroko was deep in thought again, someone covered his mouth.

"Watch out!" Kise yelled in surprise.

And something suddenly entered Momoi's vision, it was a paper cup flying towards her. And in the cup, was some sticky liquid—

"!" Momoi panicked and at that moment, she was frozen.

Splash!

The paper cup before Momoi was directed away.

Before the liquid spilled onto Momoi, Kuroko reached out and hit the cup away. The trajectory of the paper cup changed and following the pull of the Earth's gravity, it landed on the ground, spilling its contents all over.

"That was close..."

Kuroko gently sighed in relief. However...

"Oi. What the heck is the meaning of this..."

"Eh?"

Looking in the direction of the cold voice, it was Midorima standing there in an obvious fit of anger.

Next to his feet was where the paper cup landed, and the contents had soaked his leg.

"Hey, Midorimacchi!"

"Kuroko, what were you doing...?"

"It's a misunderstanding, Midorima-kun. It's that person's doing."

Kuroko calmly pointed at the man standing in front of them, who had stiffened up.

Indeed, that man's hand, was still in the pose of holding a paper cup.

"I, I, that, I only tripped, that's all..." The man explained hesitantly, Kuroko stared intently at the man with doubt in his eyes.

"Is that so? If you tripped, your body should be in a more awkward pose...and, on the back of your hand, there's..."

The man was taken aback and he used his left hand to cover the back of his right hand, "D, Damn you!" The man cursed, and he ran away.

"You could at least apologise....!"

Midorima frowned, took out a Daruma from his bag and threw a three-pointer.

The Daruma flew through the air in a beautiful curve into the crowd of people, and then they heard a man give a pained cry "That hurt-!"

"Good."

"Good my foot! That was dangerous! What if you hit someone else!"

Facing Kise's questioning, Midorima answered indifferently.

"Don't be foolish, my shooting will not miss."

"Who's talking about that!?"

"Midorima-kun, I'll go get the Daruma back." "Even Kurokocchi! Is that Daruma the only thing all of you are concerned about!?"

Kise clutched his head. And Kuroko wormed his way into the crowd while Midorima said "I'm counting on you". Looking at Kuroko's back, Momoi can't help but feel a bit worried.

"Tetsu-kun! We'll go to the resting area! So after you get it, go there directly, 'kay?'

"I understand."

Kuroko waved his hand to show that he got the message and disappeared into the sea of people quickly.

"What's wrong with all of you, seriously..."

Kise slumped his shoulders helplessly.

Momoi took a handkerchief out of her pouch and passed it to Midorima, "Midorin, use this first."

"It's a bit of distance, but we should go to the resting area together, okay? There is a water fountain there, so you can rinse your foot there. Ne?"

Midorima nodded his head frankly as Momoi planned out the itinerary with the aura of a manager. So together with Kise, the three of them quickly went to the resting area.

After cleaning his foot at the resting area, Midorima sat down on an empty seat at the resting area and started grumbling again.

"Really, it's a total disaster. The thing is really sticky"

Afterwards, Momoi sat down beside him and placed her mask and pouch on her lap. As she was wringing her handkerchief dry, she said apologetically.

"...I just feel that I should apologise" "Why do you want apologise?"

Seeing a downcast Momoi, Midorima couldn't help but ask.

"This isn't your fault, isn't it?"

"That's kind of true...but today didn't go smoothly at all, something troublesome always happens..."

"What happened?"

Momoi talked in detail about what happened just now, about her getting hit on.

After listening, Midorima frowned and said somewhat angrily.

"So, you think that you are giving me, Kuroko and Kise trouble?"

"Yes..."

"Ridiculous. You're putting your focus on the wrong places."

Midorima crossed his arms and stared at Momoi

"Those men who flippantly flirt with a girl whom they don't even know should know that it's a wasted effort. The kind of trouble you should be feeling is that they are wasting your precious time. What you should be thinking about is how to make up for the time lost due to those kinds of people disturbing you, isn't that right?"

Momoi's looked at Midorima in surprise. Midorima just gave a "hmph" and looked away.

"Thank you, Midorin."

Momoi smiled. Midorima, however, frowned even more and stretched out his hand.

"...then again, pass me your handkerchief. I'll return it to you after I cleaned it."

"You don't have to-, there's no need to do that kind of thing....strange, speaking of which, where is Kise?"

Momoi looked around. When Midorima went to wash his heel , Kise should be with him, but he seemed to have disappeared. When you were washing the handkerchief, Kise said he wanted to look for Aomine and went off."

"Is that so? I didn't notice....Where does he want to search?"

She went around and searched for the two people carefully, and then she noticed that there was a crowd of eye catching people gathering at the resting area.

The men standing there had an air of dignity and they were wearing standard cassocks. White tabi were peeking out from under the cassocks.

They seem to be religious followers who will carry the carriages.

They seemed to be standing in a circle discussing something.

Carrying the carriage and parading it requires some discussion about coordination. Momoi thought and looked somewhere else.

"Like I said, I already told you I don't want to!"

"Aomine-kun!?"

Just as Momoi looked away, the other boy came back. The voice just now was definitely Aomine. And it sounds as if he is in the centre of that circle. "Midorin, wait here for me!" Momoi instructed, and she ran off to where the religious followers were without waiting for a reply. "Aomine-kun!"

Hearing Momoi's voice, the religious followers all turned. At the same time, Aomine took the chance and ran away from the circle.

"Aomine-kun, what are you doing!?"

Seeing Momoi's exasperation, Aomine said irritably,

"Nothing! These uncles suddenly came up and started talking to me!" Aomine said while glancing at the oldest member of the religious followers, a man with a crew cut.

The crew cut man didn't care about Aomine's unhappy glare and looked very interested. He laughed cheerfully "Woah, Woah, that's some excellent look."

And then, after scrutinising Momoi and Aomine, the corners of his mouth turned upwards "They're quite a pair."

"Oi, kid. Since your girlfriend is here, might as well show her how cool you are when you're with us, right?"

"She's not my girlfriend!"

Aomine retorted immediately.

"I already said I don't want to do such troublesome things!"

"It's not troublesome at all. It would become a good summer memory. It's not an experience that you can get every summer festival. Besides, since you have such a good body, why not make use of it?"

"I use it enough when I play basketball!"

"Eh, you play basketball as well? Just like the model kid."

The crew cut man smiled, squinting.

Listening to the conversation in a daze, Momoi started making the connection in her head.

"That, don't tell me you're..."

Momoi was just about to say something when...

"Eh—? Aominecchi and Momoicchi, what are you both doing?"

And the person who just floated into Momoi's mind-Kise trotted over.

"Why are you both with Taka-san?"

Kise looked at Momoi and Aomine, surprised.

"I knew it...the person Kise was talking about is..."

Momoi raised her head and looked towards the crew cut man. Kise laughed happily. "Yep. That's Taka-san who lives near my house."

"What, so you're Ryota's friends?"

Crew cut man, or more accurately, Taka-san, laughed loudly.

"That's the kind of good body that I want."

"Taka-san, is there something you want from Aominecchi?"

"Not really, it's just that when I saw that kid with such a good build, I wanted to ask if he wanted to carry the shrine carriage with us."

Aomine protested violently "No, I definitely don't want to do it—!"

Taka-san is already about to give up, but holding onto a small silver of hope, he invited Aomine once more.

"Just treat it as doing a good deed, and help us carry it, ok? We're kind of short handed and it's troubling for us. Who

knows, you might fall in love with it after you try it?"

"I'm not doing it, I don't want to! Who would have interest in something like shrine carriages...!"

Maybe they were upset with Aomine saying "Something like shrine carriages", the other followers looked at Aomine with a dangerous look in their eyes.

"Oi, you stinking brat....watch your tongue!"

"Our big bro is asking you for help, you should be helping without any complaints."

The religious followers moved closer to Aomine pressuring him. Surrounded by the scary men, Momoi nervously grabbed onto Aomine's yukata. Aomine, instead stood his ground and glared at the followers with no fear in his face.

Kise looked at Taka-san with a troubled look on his face. Taka-san just sighed and scratched his head.

"...Oi, all of you, enough already."

Taka-san spoke to the other followers in a low voice.

"I only invited him to help. If he is unwilling, we can always find other people."

"But, Big bro..."

Among the followers, there were some who looked at Taka-san, not really understanding.

"And actually, we're not really that short handed...?"

"If you get help, will you give us sweets?"

Suddenly, someone interrupted the conversation, and everybody turned towards the voice.

"If you can give us sweets as a gift, I could introduce a talent who is energetic and strong."

Adjusting his glasses, the one who spoke so bluntly—was Midorima.

"If you guys come up with 3 candied apples, you'll probably get the help you need."

"Really? If it's like that, will you help us?" Taka-san looked at Midorima's build, eyes sparkling. Midorima looked stunned for a while and then looked away.

"...It's not me. But, if you are interested, I can help you contact that guy anytime."

"What, so it wasn't you...never mind, but if you can really introduce a good person, then we are grateful. I'll be counting on you."

Taka-san smiling warmly and said "Oh, right. This, you can use it I suppose." And passed Kise a few lucky draw tickets.

After departing from Taka-san, the four of them finally made it back to the resting area and occupied the empty seats. Aomine slumped on the table once he sat down.

"I'm so tired..."

"Really, Aomine-kun, where did you go off to and ended up getting yourself into that situation?" Momoi chided Aomine, a bit tired. Aomine remained slumped on the table and tilted his head, looking at Momoi and said

"It's not my fault—. Technically, Satsuki is partly to blame as well."

"Eh? Why?"

"Because you didn't come back after so long. I was thinking of whether I should go to the stores and get something to eat. And then, those guys suddenly came up to me..."

Aomine sighed as though exhaling all the air in his lungs.

"Midorima, you are going to introduce Murasakibara to help?"

"Eh? That means, Murasakibara-kun isn't with you?"

Momoi remembered that not long ago, Midorima and Murasakibara were both browsing the food stores together.

"Because I finished buying all the desserts that Murasakibara wanted, we parted ways. Seeing how much that guy was eating, I felt that I completely lost my own appetite."

"I can kind of understand that."

Hearing Midorima's complaint, Kise nodded a little, agreeing.

"Rather than that, Satsuki." Aomine called Momoi's name directly. "Where's my meat?"

"Ah!"

Momoi covered her mouth. She had completely forgotten about it.

Seeing Momoi going "Heh heh" apologetically, Aomine slumped on the table once more.

"Are you kidding me...damn, I'm going to starve to death..."

"Don't exaggerate...what am I going to do about you...geez...I'll go and buy something back."

Momoi got up and Midorima said impatiently.

"Momoi, stop spoiling Aomine, let him buy it himself."

"It's alright. I have to look for Tetsu-kun anyway."

Kuroko has not returned from picking up the Daruma and Momoi was getting worried. She'll just buy some grilled meat back for Aomine while she is looking for Kuroko.

"Do you want me to accompany you?" Kise got up but Momoi smiled, stopping him.

"I'll come back soon, it's okay. Just wait a bit!"

Momoi carefully hugged the stuffed bear and quickly walked off.

From the path near the shrine to the dense forest at the side, the noise from the Summer festival quickly got blocked off.

With their backs facing the bright lights of the temple's night market, a man quickly weaved their way to the deeper parts of the forest.

Worming his way through the forestry, a voice was heard from the thickets. "Oi, did you buy them?" Waiting for the man, were his companions.

They squatted under the trees, forming a circle. It doesn't matter where, this sort of formation was the most convenient for them. Rather than standing around scattered, this sort of communal squatting made them look more intimidating and fierce so anyone who sees them will definitely get scared witless and avoid them. Seeing how others freak out was definitely enjoyable. The man who came back quickly joined the formation, squatting down. Even though, he is bothered by the mosquitoes biting him but he had no choice but to endure. He had to try his best to avoid the public eyes and ears.

"I got them back...but do you really want to do this?" The man looked at his circle of friends. Half of them gave him an uneasy look. "We can't help it, we have to get that thing from that woman no matter what—" "Speaking of which, if you didn't put that thing in that sort of weird place, we wouldn't have this problem in the first place!"

One of the man's companions used his fist to grind the face of the man who returned. Following the movement of the fist, the lizard on the back of his hand moved as though it was alive.

"I already said I was sorry...but I had no other choice? So many cops showed up suddenly, so I could only hide it."

The man, whose cheek is now in pain, curled up as though hiding. "That hurt..." the hand which he used to place on his cheek also had a lizard tattoo.

"Whatever, just pass out the things you bought."

Because the other people hurriedly snatched the items, the man who just returned passed the items that he was holding to the ones next to him. "It's this..."

They were masks from one of the open air booths.

"Won't we be too attention grabbing if we used these to cover our face—But as long as our faces our not shown, I think we can do this."

Taking the mask, the man passed the mask to another person. The back of this person's hand, also had a lizard tattoo.

"Now that I think about it, that woman, is she blind or something—? She wasn't seduced by my charming looks..."

"I—diot! I think you are the one who is blind. Look at yourself in the mirror, would you?!"

"It's not your problem! You should look at yourself, your face is even bigger than the mask!"

"Didn't you say something like 'Fruit Juice flirting strategy'. That flopped too didn't it!"

As the men were exchanging arguments and bickering, the masks also got distributed. Raising the masks and getting up, with a "one, two..." the men all put on the masks together. While the men were still squatting, it was hard to see their faces due to the shadows from the trees but now, as the lights from the Summer festival shone through the trees, the faces slowly got revealed.

Almost immediately, anger and laughter exploded.

"Why did you choose such an image!"

The men, who had no strategy at all, were wearing masks that had large round eyes only seen in anime.

"Because only these masks were left!"

"Ah hahahahahaha! Damn! You all are big thugs wearing this sort of anime masks, that's disgusting!"

"Aren't you the same, it's really damn disgusting!"

"Idiots, shut up!!"

"!!" The men quickly squatted under the covers of the trees again.

"....hear that?"

They lowered their voices and perked their ears listening. The noise from the summer festival was distant. Not one soul noticed these sneaky people and no one came to check what was going on....there was no one nearby, and they sighed in relief. It seems like no one here noticed anything unusual.

However, there was one thing that these men didn't notice.

Similarly hiding in the forest, there was someone listening very carefully to the men's conversation.

As though blending with the darkness of the forest, that person's presence was completely masked and he carefully observed every single action of those men.

Then one of the men spoke up, "If all goes well, we'll just take the item. If something screws up, we'll kidnap that woman too, ok?" Hearing that the men have confirmed the order, the shadow quietly left the place. But, he stopped moving after a while.

There was the sound of leaves getting stepped on, someone was heading in this direction.

The men also noticed this. "Oi, look, isn't that..." there was surprise in their voice.

Appearing in their field of vision, was a young girl wearing a pink yukata and strolling in the forest.

In order to find any traces of Kuroko, Momoi left the activity area and stepped into the small forest. She had looked around the area where the daruma fell but she could not find Kuroko.

Thinking the daruma may have rolled into the forest, he might have went into the forest to find it. With such a thought, Momoi walked while looking around the increasingly darkening forest.

As Momoi was walking, the fallen leaves on the ground make a rustling sound due to being stepped on.

The only sound you could hear was—

shasha, shasha, shasha, shasha!

Suddenly, the sound of messy footsteps came from behind her.

"Tetsu-kun?"

Momoi quickly turned around, suspicion in her eyes.

In the darkness, six man wearing cute anime masks stood behind her.

"...Eh?" Because the turnout of events was too sudden, Momoi could not comprehend the situation in front of her and stood on the spot, confused.

But, that was a bad move. The masked men quickly split up and surround Momoi.

"Eh, Eh!?"

Momoi stared at her surroundings, lost at what's going on. When she realised that she was surrounded, the man in front of her moved.

"I'm taking this fella back!"

A low voice came from behind the mask, the man grabbed the stuffed bear that Momoi was hugging and snatched it.

"Give that back!"

Momoi panicked and stretched her arms out to snatch the bear back but the man moved first and hid the stuffed toy behind his back.

"Oh dear, that's too bad—"

From under the mask, the man's soft laughter was heard.

"...It's not too bad, I'll accept it."

"Huh? What?"

The voice that suddenly interrupted made the man turned around. The stuffed bear had already been snatched from his hands. Almost at the same time, someone pulled Momoi's wrist and pulled her away from the circle.

The series of actions was completed in a blink of an eye, It was almost as though some invisible force suddenly pulled the stuffed bear and the girl away.

How is that even possible...The men pulled their masks up and rubbed their eyes.

"Are you alright, Momoi-san?" "Tetsu-kun!?"

As per normal, because Kuroko suddenly appeared, Momoi yelped in surprise. With one hand hugging the stuffed bear and the other pulling Momoi's wrist, Kuroko gave Momoi a comforting smile.

"Momoi-san, we're going to start escaping."

"What!?"

Kuroko, holding on Momoi's wrist, started running, just like that.

"Stop right there!!"

The man who only reacted after a beat, started chasing Kuroko and Momoi with all their power.

Kuroko released Momoi's hand and took something out and threw them at the men. "UWA!?"

Immediately, the pursuers stopped and raised their hands to cover their heads. But what came at them was a very weak assault.

"Eh?" Putting their arms down, they looked at the surroundings, troubled. There were various coloured water balloons bouncing next to them.

"What the hell!"

"You dare to mess with us!"

The men were furious and they continued chasing Kuroko and Momoi.

Even though they started off first, but as of now, Kuroko and Momoi had an overwhelming disadvantage. The wooden clogs that they were not used to wearing were a hindrance. Momoi could not help but tremble when she heard the angry cries behind her. At this moment, unexpected saviors shower up.

"Kurokocchi~! Are you here~?"

"Kuro-chin~?" Kuroko shouted, which he rarely does, their names.

"Kise-kun! Murasakibara-kun!"

"Ah, Kurokocchi!...Eh Eh EHH!?"

Kise saw Kuroko and Momoi as well as the masked group that was chasing them. He backed up subconsciously.

And Murasakibara who saw the exact same scene said what Kise was thinking. "Wah, something strange is coming over!"

"Murasakibara-kun! Catch!"

Kuroko threw the stuffed bear to Murasakibara. Murasakibara caught it and quickly stuffed it into Kise's hands.

"Ha? Why did you give it to me?"

"Run!"

"Huh!?"

"Ki-chan, you and Mu-kun run now!"

Momoi hurriedly instructed them.

"What the heck, seriously~!!" Kise started running while shouting indignantly at the same time.

"Eh~, we have to run~?"

Murasakibara, as expected, has not grasped the situation but still chased after Kise and ran.

Kise ran out of the forest only the activity area and ran towards the resting area which is on the right. Kuroko on the other hand, intentionally ran towards the left. "Don't think you can get away~!!" The masked group chased Kise and Murasakibara and they ran crazily on the pathway.

On the road which connects the resting area to the shrine, Midorima was anxiously waiting for Kise to return.

Because Kise said that he wanted to look for Momoi and Kuroko who have not returned yet, it escalated to even Murasakibara insisting that he go look for them to. It seems like it has been a pretty long time.

Behind Midorima, were Taka-san and group. "Hey, it's almost time to carry the shrine carriage and set off." They started saying impatiently. At the corner of the activity area, there was a dazzling golden glow. It was the shrine carriage which has been decorated with phoenixes. The religious followers who were guarding it were also starting to warm up, each of them were really serious.

"Ne, if that guy doesn't show up, then you'll carry the shrine in his place, that okay?"

Midorima intentionally ignored Taka-san's suggestion. If Murasakibara doesn't come back, then he would have to

really carry the shrine carriage. Thinking as such, Midorima became more frustrated.

As Taka-san said “Well, let’s set off, guys!”, the bells started tolling and the shrine carriage parade was about to start.

Midorima shuddered a bit and tried to find a chance to get out of this mess.

And it was this moment.

“Midorimacchi—!”

“Kise!”

Hearing the voice that he was waiting for, Midorima looked through the crowd searching for the voice’s owner—and then he was speechless.

Kise was running towards his direction at full speed. Murasakibara was also running right beside him.

However, why were there a bunch of men wearing comical anime masks and running behind them!

The men who were wearing such joyful masks started making faces that were totally opposite from the masks expression and they were roaring “Stop right there—!”

“What the hell are you doing!” “I don’t know either!”

Midorima was so angry that his tongue was tied. But at this moment, an idea surfaced.

“Murasakibara!”

“Hmm—?”

Murasakibara gave an exhausted look towards the direction from where Midorima shouted.

“Throw those guys over here!”

Midorima pointed at Taka-san who was giving orders to the religious followers about carrying the carriage.

“Eh?”

Kise looked shocked. Midorima, on the other hand, nodded his head without any hesitation. “Ok.”

And turned.

Murasakibara pivoted on one leg and faced the masked group who were on their heels. The air and pressure caused to masked group to utter a “Wah—” and stop in their tracks.

Because they were so focused on chasing, they didn’t really notice Murasakibara. Now he was facing them, that frightening giant figure was now looking straight at them. The men realised that they might be in danger, so they stopped.

But their instinct only made them stop, they were unable to protect themselves.

“Osu—“ Murasakibara stretched his arms towards to frozen man and with using only a little strength, like he was throwing trash, the men were sent flying one by one.

The men screamed and one after another, crashed into Taka-san. “...Oi, that hurt.”

Facing the men who rudely flew in, Taka-san gave them an extreme look of irritation.

"You bastards, you dare to crash into our big bro!"

The big brother that they respected has been hurt and the strong religious believer stared at the masked group furious.

"Eeeep!!"

The masked men huddled together, trembling and Midorima said something to calm the whole situation.

"Taka-san, these people said that they want to carry the shrine carriage!"

Suddenly, Taka-san's face turned into a warm peaceful smile.

"What, so it was like that! If that is so, then I'll let you cute fellas off!"

T/N: In case anyone is confused, Taka-san meant the masked guys, not the Kiseki no Seidai.

.

The masked group who were trying to get away all got their wrists grabbed and with some pushing and shoving, they were forced under the rack of the shrine carriage and made to carry it. It seemed as though they were about to start wailing but no one heard them. The men who were carrying the shrine loudly went "Hey, Ho! Hey, Ho!" creating a high atmosphere for the summer festival.

"What the heck is this...really."

Seeing the shrine carriages being moved into the activity area, Kise mumbled, irritated.

"That should be my line. What the hell were all of you doing!"

Midorima asked, adjusting his glasses.

"I'm not really sure what's going on either...just that Kurokocchi told me to take this and run."

Kise stared at the stuffed bear carefully, while Murasakibara, who was beside him, stretched and yawned loudly.

"Midori-chin, I heard you were looking for me?...but who were those people?"

Murasakibara was lost but the person who could answer his question was not here.

"I want to know too..."

Midorima sighed deeply.

"If only Kurokocchi was here, maybe we would understand something."

"I'm over here."

"Wah!"

Kise jumped in fright. It wasn't sure when they were there, but Kuroko and Momoi appeared behind him.

It seemed as though they were hiding somewhere, the two of them were catching their breath.

"Kurokocchi! What was that all about, those people!!"

Kuroko raised his hand stopping Kise who was violently protesting, saying "I'll explain."

"If what I deduced is correct, I think we can see something amazing."

Going towards to resting area and reuniting with Aomine, they sat down at a corner. Even though everyone wanted to hear Kuroko explain, but Aomine who didn't know anything that happened asked about the sequence of events.

"You seem to have encountered something interesting!" This was what Aomine thought. Even though Aomine was grinning brightly, the people involved could not smile at all.

But, what did we do? What were we involved in?"

"Tetsu-kun, who were those people?" Momoi asked Kuroko. Kuroko answered curtly.

"They were the people who tried to flirt with Momoi-san."

"Eh?"

Except for Kuroko, everyone gave a shocked look. Momoi asked, not really understanding.

"But, if we're talking about flirting...We met a lot today, ah-reh?"

"That's right. More accurately, from the time the person who flirted with you at the Takoyaki store all the way to the person who spilled the juice." "Juice? The one who splashed juice on Midorimacchi? That's not flirting, is it?"

Listening to Kise's doubts, Kuroko nodded. "That's true. But they are all from the same group. Did you notice? All those people had something in common."

Kuroko pointed at the back of his hand and continued talking.

"There was a lizard tattoo here. Did you both see that?"

"Now that you mention it...!" Momoi exclaimed loudly.

There was indeed, on the back of the hand of the man who flirted with her at the Takoyaki store, a lizard tattoo.

The time Kuroko noticed this common point was when Momoi was getting hit on for the third time.

She was obviously with Kise but yet there were still people who barged right in and flirted with her in such a strong determined manner. When observing the other party, Kuroko noticed the tattoo on their hands.

"At first, I thought it was just a coincidence, but during the fourth time, that person had a lizard tattoo as well. So I thought it was strange." The one who confirmed his suspicion was, as expected, the one who was holding the fruit juice.

Pretending that he had fallen over and wanting to throw the juice on Momoi, suddenly everything became clear. However, the one who executed that plan seemed to be hiding an important link. Testing him and saying "The back of your hand..." to find a clue, the juice spilling man panicked and ran off. And it was because of this, that Kuroko concluded that this string of flirting incidents was planned. After hypothesizing, he wanted to confirm it so he tried to find out the truth by himself.

Pretending to be looking for the daruma and leaving Momoi, he went to look for the man with the lizard tattoo. Fortunately, he saw the man buying masks from the mask shop. Therefore, he followed him to the forest and heard the man and his group discussing their secret plans.

"So, that's why you appeared in the forest to help me."

Momoi's eyes widened in surprise and she looked at Kuroko.

"Kurokocchi, sometimes, you can be quite bold, you know..."

Kise said, scratching his cheek, half in shock and half in awe.

"So, what was their motive?!"

Midorima impatiently asked.

"Their motive was to get this back from Momoi-san."

Saying this, Kuroko picked up the stuffed bear from the table.

"Eh, this?"

Momoi stared at the stuffed bear. The other members did not comment about it. To Momoi, this was only a cute stuffed bear.

"They said they hidden something important in this stuffed bear."

"Hidden...?"

Kuroko picked up the stuffed bear, turning it around.

Then, he opened the tiny backpack on the stuffed bear's back and turned the stuffed bear upside down. Kuru kuru kuru, the item that was hidden inside the bag rolled into Kuroko's hand.

"!" Momoi and the rest stared with widened eyes.

"...See, it is something amazing."

Kuroko smiled, looking at the shining ruby and diamond in his hand.

Afterwards they found out that actually those masked men were a gang of robbers who robbed a jewellery shop. Even though they were a gang of robbers, that was actually the first time they actually committed a crime. What they stole was a low grade item. Although they stole the items without a hitch, but the store owner quickly informed the police. Afraid of being noticed by nearby patrolling police cars, they quickly hid the precious stone. They didn't realise they it would end up being put in a box labelled 'defects' near a booth and that the items in the box would end up being given as a consolation prize...and this is what led to the series of events.

After giving the precious stones to the police, Kuroko and Momoi were told that they needed to get their statements taken. After they finished, it was already around 9pm. Rejecting the police officer's offer to send them home, Kuroko and Momoi walked out of the police station.

"What a messed up day..." With the wooden clogs on her feet were making a tapping sound, Momoi sighed, tired.

"I agree. The statements really took up a lot of time..."

Kuroko also gave a small sigh.

The two people walked and then someone called them from in front. "Yo, is it done?"

Lifting their heads, the sound came from near some shrubs on the road side. Aomine, Kise, Midorima, Murasakibara and even Akashi were sitting there.

"Everyone, what's with this?"

Momoi was somewhat surprised and she and Kuroko ran towards them quickly.

"We were waiting for the both of you~"

Kise smiled cheerfully.

"It took such a long time, couldn't you have explained to the police in a simplified and efficient manner?!"

Midorima complained, with his arms crossed.

"Want some snacks?"

Murasakibara took some snacks from the bunch of snacks he was carrying and handed it out.

"It must have been very troublesome. It was really fortunate that there wasn't anyone like Haizaki among those culprits."

Akashi simply consoled them.

So they were waiting for us. For a moment, Momoi felt something warm in her heart.

"Then, let's go!"

Aomine stood up and stretched. Then the rest of them stood up too.

"Go? Go where?"

"To set off fireworks. It's the last activity for the summer festival."

Aomine said and Kise lifted up the bunch of fireworks that he put on the pathway and also said.

"Of course we must happily set off fireworks at the end of the summer festival."

"Ending the day with a visit to the police station, don't you think that is pitiful?"

Akashi smiled slightly. Momoi turned towards Kuroko. Kuroko had a peaceful smile on his face.

"Let's go, Momoi-san."

"Tetsu-kun..."

Momoi was about to nod and agree but then stopped herself.

"I, kinda need to go home soon...I have curfew..."

The clock was already pointing towards nine. Momoi's family was surely waiting for her to return.

"Sa-cchin, you're going home?" Murasakibara's eyebrows sloped downwards in disappointment.

"Well, this isn't an appropriate time for girls to be loitering about outside."

"Eh~~! Midorimacchi, you're too old fashioned! If it's summer holidays, returning home a bit late is nothing right? And tomorrow, we're starting club activities again, we'll be busy!" "But, Momoi-san's family will get worried..."

The boys exchanged words, discussing and debating. And then finally, Akashi spoke.

"Kise, you brought your mobile phone?"

"Eh? Yeah, of course I did."

Kise pulled out his mobile phone from his pocket. After looking at the phone, Akashi turned to Aomine.

"Aomine, you know what you should do, I suppose?"

"Ha? What do you mean, what?"

Aomine scratched his head, a bit unhappy. Akashi smiled (^_^) as though knowing everything that was going on.

"We specially waited for them until this point, do you really want to see the plan go to waste?"

"...Geez, guess I have no choice."

Aomine snatched the mobile phone from Kise's hands and tossed it to Momoi. "Here."

"Aomine-kun?"

"Call your house. Then, tell them when you are going home, I will send you straight back to your house."

"...Is that okay?"

"Don't think so much about it and just call."

Because Aomine sounded impatient, Momoi frantically called her home.

Listening to the phone's connection tone, Momoi lifted her head and looked at the sky.

The night sky was clear with twinkling stars. That was the most beautiful night sky.

She thought about Kuroko's words.

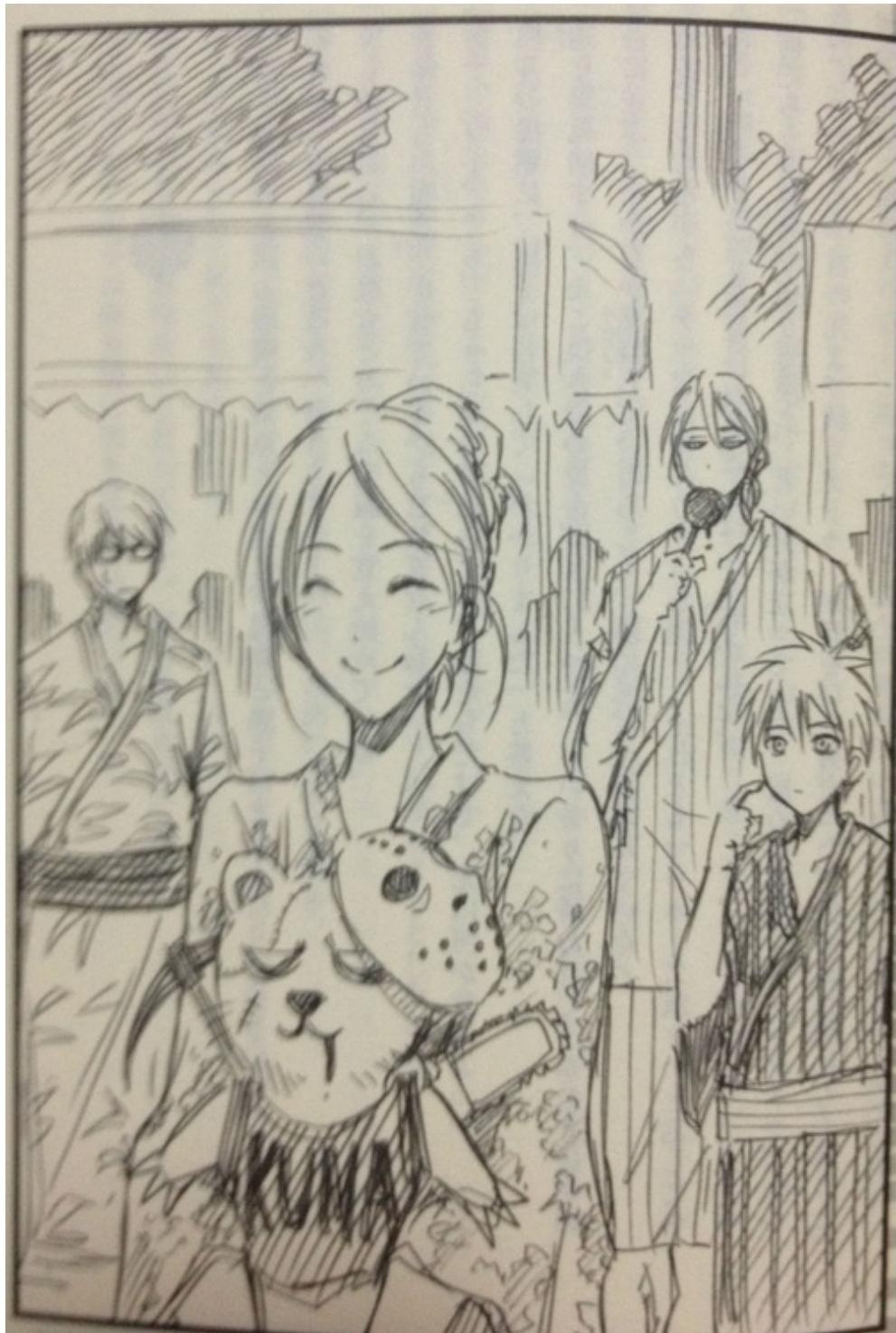
—You'll see something amazing.

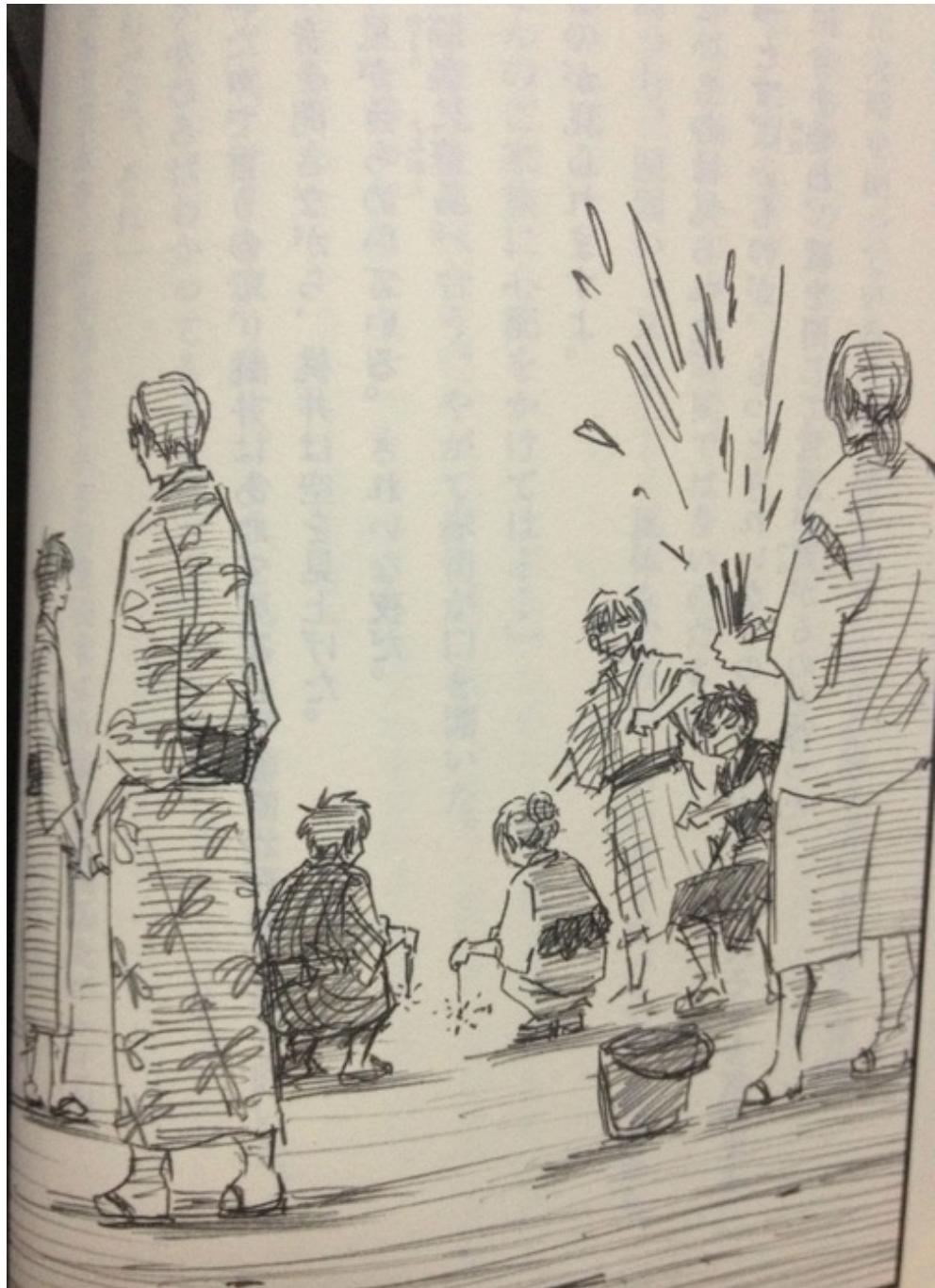
Truly, she saw something really beautiful.

But, in her heart, she was sure she would see something even more amazing and beautiful.

Momoi bowed a little, anticipation and closed her eyes waiting for the call to connect.

END





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AnimeMangaDaisuki, KUROBASU REPLACE 3 chapter 2

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

 animemangadaisuki.tumblr.com/post/36341905810/kurobasu-replace-3-chapter-2-english-translation

| OMG! @#\$%^&^%\$ sorry it took me longer than i expected to proof read it ! @#\$%^&^%\$

- ANYWAY THERE ARE A LOT OF HYUGA X RIKO MOMENT IN HERE@#\$%^%\$# THERE ARE SOME KIYOSHI MOMENT TOO BYUT HYUGA TOOK THE SPOT LIGHT@#\$%^&*&^%\$
- AND SERIOUSLY AFTER READING THIS NOVEL I ACTUALLY FEELS CLOSER TO SEIRIN NOW!! LAST TIME am kinda bias over THE GOM !! BUT NOW ITS DIFFERENT story!! i can really “feels” them now hahahaha
- for thos who missed chapter 1 can read it from here

<http://animemangadaisuki.tumblr.com/post/33485901548/kurobasu-replace-3-chapter-1-english-translation>

2G Seirin High School Basketball Club, start!!

Seirin Private High School.

Originally, in a newly established school like this, there are no males' basketball club.

However, during that year's spring.....

“Well, let's just make one then!” The newly enrolled Kiyoshi Teppei told a fellow new student, Hyuga Junpei, before turning to sign up for a new club After Izuki Shun, Mitobe Rinnosuke and Koganei Shinji joined the club, Hyuga Junpei also decided to join, so it was considered a success.

The speech (oath) they gave” on the school's rooftop was especially striking, and after a few days –

At Seirin High School's corridor, Aida Riko was begging Junpei, “because I need to buy some stuff for the basketball club, so come with me.” However, the reply she got was surprising.

“After school hours right? If we go after school, can we meet at the school gate?

as said,

They then proceed to set the time and place to meet.

— Originally i thought he would have a reluctant face and refuse to come with me—

Riko stared at Hyuga's face intently. As Hyuga had just dyed his blonde hair black, Riko are stillnot used to it.

“Whats your problem?”

Hyuga noticed Riko staring at his hair, and frowned in annoyance.

“If you think that my blonde hair was nicer, you'd better save your breath.”

“Don't say that. But that hairstyle was really funny, it's great that you were able to dye it black.”

"I didn't dye my hair for comedic purposes!"

Looking at the annoyed Hyuga, Riko simply laughed and said, "Don't mind, don't mind!" before returning to her own class. As she was happily prancing back to her class, she seemed to have a sudden realization.

She was still in school. Furthermore, they are still people walking around the corridor prancing in the school would be too conspicuous. At the same time, after that crazy oath a few days ago, and her being a member of the basketball club was enough to set tongues a wag. It would be bothersome if another rumour were to be circulated. In order to calm herself down, Riko took a deep breath.

Even so, her mouth still curled up into a smile. As expected, she was so happy that it was difficult to control herself.

Looking at the Hyuga who had dyed his hair upon entering high school and had distanced himself from basketball, Riko could do nothing but watch from aside. But the fact that Hyuga had taken up Riko's proposal without resentment proved that he is beginning to take his beloved the basketball he loves seriously.

Even though he was starting to take basketball seriously, it was still a bit too late, Riko thought. After making me worried for so long, you should repay me by taking extra practice. after all, for an athlete, a rusty body and skills is the ultimate life wound that could impact them

Riko added another segment to her training regime in her mind, < Hyuga-kun's special training regime> * of course / I won't let him die* and hurried back to her own classroom.

When Riko and Hyuga meet at the school's gate after school, they went to the medicine shop first

"We'll need wet dressing cloth, disinfectant, fixed bandages and elastic bandages..."

Riko moves quickly through the store and takes the things she needs before putting them into the basket Hyuga was holding.

"That's fast..."

"Eh? What do you mean?" While facing Riko, Hyuga looked at the shelves before answering.

"Nothing, I just thought that you would hesitate before deciding what you want to buy."

The shop had a lot of medicine, and its displayed in such a way that it would tempt people to buy. Yet Riko showed no signs of hesitation as she chooses her items.

"That's because I did my research beforehand. We shouldn't waste the club budget we finally managed to get, right?"

"That's true, but you're too fast."

"Well, these are all the things we need. After paying we'll go to the next store."

All the things bought are carried by Hyuga, while Riko did all the buying. No matter which shop they were in, Riko's speed is unbelievably fast. It didn't take long before the things they need are all bought. In a blink of an eye, the weight in Hyuga's hands increases.

As Hyuga was holding the bags with his hands, again he, "How fast – I've always thought that girls take their time shopping."

"That also depends on the situation, right?"

Riko answered as she walked towards the entrance, after paying.

"I would only hesitate when I'm buying clothes. As for today... I guess it only took me about 15 seconds or so in deciding."

"Even so, that's still too fast! How fast are you, anyway?"

"That's because when buying things, you only have to decide, 'I want this', 'I don't want this', 'I need this', and 'I don't need this', right? And after that you look at its condition before deciding!"

"Riko... You really are downright theorists. "

Hyuga shrugged his shoulders and looked surprised. Seeing Hyuga like that, Riko laughed happily, "Eh, that may be the case!" and walked out of the shop.

The skies are still clear, and it seems that evenings are still some time away. Following Riko out, Hyuga asked, "Where are we going next?"

Confused Riko look back, "Eh?"

"Lets get some drinks. My treat."

" Eh, whats with the sudden manner? What is wrong? "

Riko lookat Hyuga, surprised. Hyuga seems to have difficulties answering.

"Well... Its that, you know... A thank-you gift."

"Thank-you gift? What thank-you gift?"

"Well, its because I've caused you a lot of trouble involving basketball in the past, and in the future I might cause you trouble again."

Hyuga opened the bags he was holding and lookedinside while answering. Riko lookat him, and sighed.

"Now really –! To think that you were actually worried about this! Its so unlike you, Hyuga-kun!"

"Unlike me?! W-What, what do you mean by that?!"

"The reason why I decided to be the coach of the basketball team are because I thought it would be interesting. You guys were so pumped up like an idiot. It's such an interesting thing, and the easiest way to observe this is by being the coach!"

"You... Actually called us idiots..."

Looking at the slightly angry Hyuga, Riko wagged her eyebrows.

"That oath at the school rooftop. I am actually taking that seriously, you know. If you want me to pretend nothing ever happened, I'm going to ignore that."

"Who's going to say that? Our basketball team will definitely become the best in Japan!"

Thinking about this, Hyuga suddenly becomes pumped up with fighting spirit. Riko was happy to see that. "Well then, let's go back!" and turned around.

"When we go back, you guys have to complete your training regime... Ah!"

Riko, who had start walking, suddenly stopped. Her line of vision fell upon the glass panel of the shop she just came out of. Tracing Riko's line of vision, Hyuga, too, look towards the glass panel. Since he did not know what had attracted Riko's attention, he scanned through various products from the shop.

"This doesn't look too bad," Riko said, dreamily, pointing towards a certain item in the shop. Finally, Hyuga realized what washas attracted Riko's attention. Even so, he had doubts about it.

"Haa? what is so good about that?"

"What are you talking about? Look at the color! The design! And the functions! Its just what I want !"

"Huh... well having this is really great ... HEY! DOES IT HAVE TO BE THIS EXPENSIVE?!"

Hyuga shouted, after looking at the price tag.

For a high school student, that price was certainly not a small sum. Riko must had the same line of thoughts .

"Yes... It is rather expensive..." Riko murmured, as she walked off.

"Eh? You're not buying it?" Hyuga asked when he sees Riko's calm reaction.

The answer he got are, "The price doesn't suit the conditions I set, so forget about it."

Hyuga looks at that item in the glass panel again, before turning aroundandcatching up with Riko.

"But I thought you wanted that?"

"Yes, I do. But its not a need."

"Huh..."

"Anyway, Hyuga-kun, have you prepared yourself?"

"Huh? What do you mean?"

The sudden change of topic made Hyuga suspicious. Looking at Hyuga, Riko unhappily pouted.

"Do you have to ask? I'm talking about tomorrow's preparation, of course! Tomorrow is our first basketball practice! Do you understand, or not?!"

As if to wake Hyuga up, Riko elbowed him.

"I... I understand..."

Aside than having his hands full with stuff, getting attack by Riko when he is unprotected is killing him.

The next day...

On his way to school , Hyuga met Izuki, and his first line to him are: "Did anything happen?"

"Huh? What are you talking about?"

"Your face says it , 'I am troubled.'"

Regarding Izuki's sharp observations, Hyuga quickly covered his face with one hand in embarrassment

As he is too concerned with his facial expressions, he did not notice something is flying towards his direction.

"It hurts!"

"Hyuga, what are you doing?"

"Its so annoying! Because of your nonsense, it made me want to hide my feelings"

Izuki simply laughed at Hyuga's excuse.

"So what? Why are you so tangled up over it?"

Hyuga gave a sigh in surrender at Izuki's calm smile. It wasn't like it was a secret anyway. He was just a little annoyed that Izuki's observations were so spot-on. Hyuga gave Izuki a summary of what happened the day before, when he and Riko had went shopping together, including the part at the shop, where Riko had seen something she had wanted, but did not buy it.

"Since I'm going to bring Riko more trouble in the future, I thought that, maybe I could give her something... As a thank-you present..."

"Well, that's true... Isn't it a great idea?" Izuki nodded his head after listening to what had happen.

"If I am going to give Riko a present, it should be something she likes. But the thing she wants is really beyond my expectations."

"Yeah, but if its her, then the item will be useful in basketball... Its just that its too expensive..."

Hyuga regretted using up all his money during his short and useless period of time.

"Dammit! If only I was better at the crane game! Otherwise, catching that doll would not had cost me 3000 yen!" Hyuga lamented.

"But you don't have to be so worry," Izuki laughed and said

"Hyuga, isn't this the time where your teammates come in handy?"

"Eh?"

Izuki fished out his handphone from his pocket and waved it around.

"Riko is our team's coach, so shouldn't we all give her a present?" Izuki said. "I'll try contacting the rest." Izuki start typing out a mail.

Looking at Izuki sending the mails out Hyuga thought . "Oh yeah... teammates..." his heart repeated the words silently.

_<)Oh yeah, Mitobe said OK too!">

Looking at the reply Koganei sent, Hyuga thought, "so many emoticons..."

At the same time, Hyuga had a question.

"Hey... That guy Mitobe... I've never actually seen him speak before."

"Eh – Me too. But if there's Koganei around, I'm sure communicating with him will be no problem!"

"Is that so?"

"Yeah! And I don't really mind anyway... Actually, I'd like to see if my cold jokes can make Mitobe laugh. If so, that would be really amazing!"

"Yeah, it would be. But this sort of things won't happen in your lifetime, so give up."

Other than Koganei, no one else sent a reply. Teppei, however, made a trip personally.

"Yo! You want to buy Riko a present, yeah?"

When Hyuga and Izuki walked into the classroom, they were greeted with a grinning Teppei sitting on Hyuga's table.

"Why are you in here?!" Hyuga stared, as Teppei continued grinning innocently.

"I thought that it would be faster if I come here personally."

"Obviously texting back would be faster by thousands of times!"

"Is that so? But my hands are so big, so texting is really a bother!"

"Listening to you really pisses me off!"

"Hyuga, don't be like that! I can see your eye twitching." Izuki suggested.

Even though Hyuga and Teppei had already known each other for some time, there are still some resistance from Hyuga. Even so, no matter how angry Hyuga was, Teppei would always have that serene face on.

"Now, let's talk about buying Riko a present, then." And thus, the topic comes back.

"Should we buy it today?"

"Today?!" Hyuga and Izuki asked, surprised.

"You DO know what day it is today, right?"

"you know, today is our first basketball practice, If we're late there would be dire consequences."

Hyuga and Izuki took turns to refute the idea. However, Teppei replied,

"No biggie. It'll be OK if we buy it before practice starts." Teppei continued to smile innocently and rebutted their refute.

"If we want to give Riko a present, today's the best day, right?"

Indeed, giving her the present on the first day of basketball practice would be the best. It will also make sense to give her the present while she still wants it.

No matter what, the decision Teppei made was right. Even if there were people unwilling to participate, Teppei would always smile and say, "It's do-able!" And it was true, whatever teppei said, he never fails to do it.

Even though Hyuga did not want to admit it, inside he had always thought that Teppei are one amazing guy.

But its also because of teppei's over pessimist way of thinking, Hyuga is always annoyed by him.

Before Izuki could say anything, the one standing beside him started saying loudly

That is why you are so annoying!!! No wonder you are called the 「iron heart」 as you are so stubborn!! ", Even though Hyuga pouted his unpleasantness, he said nothing to oppose the idea.

When the school bell rang, all 5 members of Seirin's Basketball Club gathered by the school's gate. As they are all athletes to begin with, their movements were quick enough, which is why, they are sure that, they would be able to buy Riko's present before the basketball practice starts.

"Hey, this is the first time we're all going out together," Koganei, who stands in the middle of the group said ,laughing as they are on their way to the shop.

"that's true," Hyuga thought as he look over at the other members. To his surprise, his eyes met with Mitobe's, who Hyuga had never seen speaking before.

Hyuga doesn't feel nice if he were to Pulls away from the eye contact suddenly , but staring continuously at Mitobe seemed strange too. While Hyuga tries thinking which course of action should he take, Mitobe simply smiled. This helps to end the awkward moment.

Even though Hyuga are slow in response, at least it has ended

" its okay...like this right ?? "

As its Hyuga's first time "talking" to Mitobe, he is not used to it and was a bit hesitant at his decision"

"Mitobe, Mitobe!~ Look at Teppei's hand, its HUUUUUGE! Come and compare yours with his, let's see whose hand is bigger!"

Following Koganei's words, Mitobe turns back to compare their hands.

"*What a weird guy.*" Hyuga shifted his eyes away from Mitobe.

However, 5 minutes later, his impression of Mitobe changes 180 degrees.

"Eh?! People actually call Teppei <Iron-heart>? Why is that so? Because you'reaan iron OTAKU?!"

"UH ?! seriously ?? So I'm actually an Iron OTAKU?

"Why are you being surprised for?!Koganei, people calls him <iron-heart> because of this fellow's basketball's style..."

"Eh, really?! I had this nickname because of my name, Teppei..."

"No, although there is that possibility! But hey, you guys are really a load of trouble!"

Hyuga had been grumbling, complaining and scolding both Teppei and Koganei non-stop, although they had only been walking together for less than 5 minutes, but he could not hold his anger in when faced by the useless topics and dialogue exchanged by the two of them, and like this Hyuga has taken up the character of a grumpy person

"... If you want to buy something, than its best to buy the best-est one !! Here comes my inspiration!!"

"Who will want to listen?!" facing with Izuki's cold jokes, Hyuga had once again taken up the role of a Grumpy person

Even though they were only out for 10 minutes, Hyuga is already feeling very tired.

Don't tell me... I have to suffer like this in future? Hyuga is having a abad feeling about it.

Unaware of Hyuga's feelings, Teppei asked, "Whats coming ~ ??"

"Ah – is that the one? An excavator is coming!Sothat's cool !"

"Ah ah, Any vehicle is fine!"

.....

Its thanks to listening to teppei and koganei constantly speed of changing their illogical topic, Hyuga has change his opinion of Mitobe < *the art of obtaining a high level of ability to listen to others* > and by looking at his face, Hyuga knew that he is not the type of person who will speak to himself when he is alone, which is great.

While appreciating the benefits of Mitobe's silence

Hyuga turns around and saw Mitobe who are now facing him and Koganei with a nervous and restless expression, walking in nervous way as koganei is starting to go out of topic again. (*it means Mitobe is trying to stop koganei to go out of topic again*) Secretly in his heart, Hyuga gave a " TUMBS UP" and a loud "GOOD JOB" for Mitobe

When they reached their destination, everyone contributed 2000 yen each for the present, after that, they placed the present in a box tied with ribbons in butterfly form.

While they are walking back, Hyuga looked at the time. It seems like they could make it in time. While they cross the bridge, they come across a guy wearing seirin's uniform, from the other side of the bridge walking towards them

Upon seeing that guy, Teppei happily shouted ' heeeeeyyyy!!!~' while waving to him.

The guy seemed to have noticed Teppei, and returned him with a friendly smile while waving back.

"Who's that?" Koganei asked Teppei.

"That's Tsuchida Satoshi-kun. He's my classmate, and he's a good person."

When the two parties finally met on the middle of the bridge, they stopped.

Tsuchida looked at Hyuga whom he had met for the first time, smiled and said, "Hello." Hyuga smiled back in return. This guy seems to be a cheerful person.

"Kiyoshi-kun, did you return because you forgot something?" Tsuchida asked in a friendly manner.

"Nah, I just went and bought something with my basketball club members."

"Oh, is that so? So the basketball club really did formed uh. That's amazing."

"Is it really that amazing?" Teppei scratched his head, astonished.

"It's amazing! I thought that creating a new club would be difficult since we just enrolled in here. That oath at the rooftop was amazing too, when I saw the passion you all had."

Hyuga are surprised by at Tsuchida's words. Ever since the oath on the rooftop a few days ago, all the members of the basketball club were labelled as 'clowns'. However, what Tsuchida said differed from other people's responses. Since he does not seem to be the type that lies, what he said must be from the bottom of his heart.

So, there are actually people like him, huh. Hyuga felt a little happy.

"Ne, ne, does Tsuchida-kun want to join the basketball club too?"

The person who spoke unexpectedly was of course Koganei. Everyone looked at each other, surprised. However, Koganei continued.

"We're still recruiting! Let's play basketball together!"

"Oh... But... I've never played basketball before..."

Tsuchida was in a dilemma, and frowned. Koganei laughed.

"No problem, no problem! I don't have much experience either! And anyway there are so many people here who know how to play basketball; we can get them to teach us!"

"That's true. I guess many people only start playing basketball when they enter Senior High. I too wouldn't want to have only experience player to join the basketball club. If Tsuchida-kun could join us, I'm sure the basketball club would be more fun." Teppei laughed helping Koganei.

"Oh..."

Tsuchida was still in a dilemma. Izuki, who couldn't stand to look anymore, decided to lend a helping hand.

"You guys, don't say such weird things suddenly. Tsuchida-kun would feel troubled if we suddenly bombarded him with so many things."

"Ah, that's true. Sorry, we must've troubled you, right?"

Tsuchida felt guilty as Koganei apologized.

"Oh no, no. I'm fine. I was just a little surprised, that's all."

"That's great! But if you are interested to join us, we are more than happy to welcome you in! Even though we don't have a female club manager, we do have a female coach!"

well I guess even that Riko would be considered to have some girl's charm ... Hyuga thought.

"Hyuga, what do you think?"

"Huh?"

Since Teppei suddenly shot him a question, Hyuga was caught off guard. "Ah, no I just thought that no matter what, Riko is still a girl after all." After saying this, he realized that that wasn't even part of the question. Hyuga thought for awhile, and replied again.

"... I think our practice will be quite tough, since we're serious about becoming Japan's number 1. But the meaning of basketball is not limited to this only."

Tsuchida laughed and nodded his head in agreement. "Is that so?"

"It's about time we leave. If we don't leave now, we may not even have enough time to change."

Izuki look at his watch. The needle on the watch are inching closer and closer to the time of the practice.

"That's right. Aida-san would be happy with this present!"

Koganei happily opened up the bag containing the present. At this moment

- SWOOSH -

a huge gust of wind blew by.

"Uwaa!"

As the wind was too sudden, everyone lost their footing balance,

" uwaa wa wa ... ahh"

Especially Koganei, who wobbled on the bridge, before knocking into the railing of the bridge.

"It hurts..... . . . !!"

Looking at Koganei who was unable to speak due to the pain, Izuki and Mitobe ran up to him worriedly.

"Koganei-kun! Are you alright?"

"Ah... Ah... It only hurts a little... AH?!"

"W-whats wrong?!"

When they heard his shouts, everyone gathered around him anxiously.

"Don't tell me... Your bone is broken?!"

"Its gone!"

"Whats gone ?!!! "

"The present..... Its gone !"

"What did you say?!"

Koganei opened up his hands and showed them. Indeed, the hands that were carrying the present earlier are now empty

"Ah! Its there!"

Tsuchida leaned over the railing and pointed downwards.

"AHHHHHHHHHH !!!" they wailed in despair.

By coincidence , the present had dropped onto a passing truck.

"Wait! It dropped there?"

"Damn it! Wait for me – "

Hyuga climbed onto the railing and tried to jump down, nervously, Izuki stopped him.

"I-Idiot! What do you think you're doing?! Do you think you're a hollywood star or something? Think this through carefully !"

"By the time I think this through, the truck would already have left !!!"

"Before that you would have died first !!!"

"In any case, lets call the police and let them know our present are stolen !! "

Hyuga roared in anger at Teppei, who had taken out his handphone.

"You idiot - ! The police won't be bothered by cases like this!! "

"Then what should we do?!"

"... Lets just try and look for it first."

Hearing Tsuchida's suggestion, the entire group looked at him.

" That is how it should be !!! "

.....
.....
.....

The polished floor sparkled under the rays of the sunset. Riko seethed with anger as she stood on the gym ground, with both hands folded.

"...So, What in the world is happening?!"

Riko's voice send shivers down their spin. The basketball members could not help but tremble at Riko's posture.

" so what is it ?!?! what had happened ?!?! How did the situation become like this ?? "

Hyuga lowered his head. It was only natural for Riko to be angry. The basketball members, who were late for their first basketball practice, met up with Riko , who were waiting for them at the gym alone.

When Riko saw how drenched their uniform is with sweat and mud, her eyes widened,

Narrowing her eyes, she and told them angrily, "GO AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES!! NOW!!! "

Hyuga and the rest hastily changed and returned. This summed up their entire plight.

No matter what, it was their mistake to begin with. Hyuga decided to stay silent, thinking that its better to let Riko vent her anger over by scolding them.

The rest seems to share the same thoughts. No one talk back, everyone lower their heads waiting for Riko to continue her words.

Slowly, Riko scan through the members.

"..... you guys.....are you really serious about this?" She asked coldly.

Hearing that, everyone look up to see Riko's expression, her expression are different from before.

Its an expression that is colder than ice.

Don't you have anything to say?"

Her voice now was a mixture of anger and many other feelings. It comes from the blow and feelings of being betrayed by those she trusted the most —

“WE’RE TERRIBLY SORRY !!!”

Hyuga and Teppei apologized at the same time, heads bowed.

“I’m serious about this! I’m really sorry about today! It was because I entrusted the others to do something weird ...!”

“No, it was me who suggested buying it today!”

Following Hyuga and Teppei, Koganei, Izuki and Mitobe bowed their heads too.

With his head pressed tightly to the ground beside Mitobe, Koganei spoke.

“Sorry! It was because of me that the thing was lost! If I had held on to it tighter it wouldn’t have dropped!”

“If only I chased after it immediately...!” Izuki also said regretfully.

All of them had the same posture as they apologized.

Their sound echoed in through the gym, and sent vibrations up to Riko’s feet. Listening to the loud apologies, Riko looked at Hyuga confused.

“W-W-Wait ... Wait a minute! What’s all this about ? What in the world did you guys do!? where did you go? ”

Riko clapped her hands hardly, she wants them to look up and face her.

The members look at each other, before their eyes settled on Hyuga.

“Hyuga-kun? What did you guys do?”

Hyuga seemed apologetic as he took a small box out from his pocket.

“Well... Its actually like this.”

“What’s this?”

“... I-It’s a thank... Thank-you gift.”

“Eh?”

Hyuga bit his lip. When he was going to give the present to the intended person, he suddenly felt shy. However, if he did not speak, Riko would not be able to understand.

“What is this?” Riko asked Hyuga.

“That’s a present for Riko.” The person who spoke was Teppei.

“Present?”

“Yes. We wanted to express our thanks to Riko who has become our coach.”

“Oh....”

Riko was so surprised that her eyes became big and round, staring at the box intensely.

“Well, open it up,” Izuki urged.

Riko took the box from Hyuga’s hands, knelt on the floor, and continue to stare at it. Its packaging had been dirtied,

and looks like it had been knocked over by something. The box was also out of shape. However, the ribbon tied to the box is still tied to it tightly.

Riko reached out to remove the ribbon, decided to look at the present herself.

"Originally it was in a pouch bag... But in the middle of our journey it broke... The ribbons are retied by Mitobe. Hopefully it can still look like a present," Koganei explained apologetically, While Mitobe nods furiously.

In the box was a pink coloured whistle.

"This... This is the one I said I wanted..."

"Un. If you want to use it, today's the best day." Hyuga said, slightly embarrassed.

"I'm so happy... Thank you! – Hey, wait!"

Riko's finally softened expression suddenly became stern again.

"Don't tell me... You went through so much trouble just to buy this thing?"

"Ah... There's actually a deeper reason than this." Hyuga told Riko everything that had happen.

"So that's what you did?! You chased after that truck, and ran back?!"

"Yes..."

" YOU IDIOTSSSS !!"

Riko shouted loudly, causing the sound to bounce off the walls of the gym.

"Why did you do this ?!"

"Sorry!"

"If you lost it, just buy it again! Haven't you guys even thought of that?"

"Sorry!"

"If you were injured, then what do you plan to do?!"

"Sorry.....Huh?"

Hyuga, who was continuously bowing to Riko, suddenly stopped.

"You guys were chasing after a truck in a road with heavy traffic! What if you are injured?! Didn't you think of what would happen next?! That if you are injured, you'd have to quit basketball ?!"

The five boys lift up their heads, looking at Riko's angry expression, her face turns red red

Riko's anger right now are different from earlier, she are now angry at their reckless behaviors instead

Its our coach..... Hyuga suddenly realized.

"Do you understand now?!"

"Y-Yes!" The group, quickly straighten their backs and answered loudly.

"Very good!" Riko nodded.

Happily, she clapped her hands hard a few times, and said :

"Well then, stand up! Practice is going to start now!"

The members, having been released from their sitting positions, groaned as their legs are numb and cramping up

Taking the time opportunity, Riko put on the pink whistle, and carefully patted the treasured whistle on her chest.

"Hm, it suits you perfectly." Izuki commented.

Riko laughed and faced everyone.

"Um, this.....I would like to thanks everyone. i will cherish it well."

"Aha, we should be the one thanking you. We'll be counting on you from now on, coach!"

Listening to what Hyuga had said, the other four nodded their heads in agreement.

"Coach, huh.... " Riko whispered softly to herself.

She than patted herself hard on the chest.

"Leave it to me !!"

On this day, the Seirin Basketball Club was officially established.

Of course, this nameless, unpopular team that would shock everyone with its fantastic performance ,

—— its something that would be happening in a few months' time.



original translated by : *Gracelin Eats Darklings*

[*HERE*](#)

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AnimeMangaDaisuki, KUROBASU REPLACE 3 chapter 3 part 1

*ENGLISH...

 animemangadaisuki.tumblr.com/post/37185240507/kurobasu-replace-3-chapter-3-part-1-english

As stage/chapter 3 is suuuuuperrr long, its decided that we would translate it part by part ;) and this is the first part XD enjoy!! <3

- **Translated by:** KisekiOhno
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3G: The Adventures of TAIGA and TATSUYA

Los Angeles.

Located at the south western part of the United States in America, it is where movies are made, and where famous beaches and neighborhoods are located. Kagami Taiga had moved to this vibrant and colorful place for a year already.

"Ah – I can't grab hold of it - !" Inside a park, Kagami was crying out desperately from a corner of a basketball court.

It can be seen that youths of the same age were engaged in a 3 versus 3 basketball match. Unfortunately, those who had gathered, included kagami would sum up to 7 people in total, which is why, they had to take turns playing on the court. Even though it is interesting watching his friends engaging in basketball games. recently, Kagami are more fixated about trying to catch and holds the ball singlehandedly. In order to achieve the skills needed for his dream dunk, he had to first master catching the ball singlehandedly worrying about his jumping.

Thus, whenever Kagami are free, he would practice catching the ball singlehandedly, to the point that he seemed obsessed with it.

"Damn – As expected, are my hands really that small?"

Underneath Kagami's trimmed fringe, a pair of eyes glared at the hands that he was unsatisfied with. To the Japanese, it was larger than those of his age. However, compared to the American children, its still considerably small.

"it should be like this... My fingers should open up a bit more..."

Kagami put his left hand's fingers in between his right hand's middle and index finger, trying to pushed them open by force. When suddenly, he felt an excruciating pain.

"It hurts - !" Kagami rubbed his right hand anxiously, lifting it to his mouth before starting to blow on it.

"... Which is why I had told you a lot oftentimes, do not try to stretch your own fingers impulsively!" A very surprising voice said.

Kagami hurriedly looked up to the person he had been waiting for.

"Tatsuya!"

Himuro, with his fringe covering his left eye, raised his eyebrows, with an obvious frustrated look on his face he said, "Didn't I tell you that if you do that, you might pull your tendons?"

"Its fine! I'm strong!"

Looking at Kagami's grinning face, Himuro had no choice but to forced a smile.

"Tatsuya!"

The players inside the basketball court waved to Himuro who had just arrived. Himuro waved back lightly, at them.

"When will it be our turn? It should be about time for us to play, right?"

"They had just scored 3 points earlier, so it's still their turn. But hey! Tatsuya, I have a reeeeeally big piece of news to share with you!"

Kagami patted the side the bench, urging Himuro to take a sit.

Himuro sat down, in accordance to Kagami's wishes. Kagami too took a seat beside him.

"and what is the great piece of news you are talking about?"

Hearing Himuro's question, Kagami looks around his surroundings sneakily. Even though Kagami had only just heard of the news that he was about to tell Himuro, it was still a big secret. He didn't want others to find out.

Once confirming that no one is evesdropping on their conversation, Kagami leaned in and whispered.

"Tatsuya, do you know about R school?"

"R school? Nope, I've never heard anything about that."

seeing that Himuro shook his head indicating that he knows nothing about it , Kagami's eyebrows drooped in disappointment. Even though he himself had never heard of R school, he believed that Himuro, who taught himself many things, would know.

"What school is that? Which district is it in?"

Kagami tried desperately to remember, when he was asked.

"Um... I think it should be near a park with an observatory..."

"Observatory, huh... I guess you mean G park?"

"G park! That's right! That's the name!" Kagami's eyes instantly lit up.

Himuro laughed and said, "If it's at G park, then I think I've been brought to play there once in the past."

"Really?! I heard that R school is quite close to G park. Shall we search for it?"

"I guess so. I think we will be able to find it if I look at the map in my house."

"Oh oh ! As expected of Tatsuya!"

Kagami looked at Himuro in respect. "Well," Kagami leaned in even closer, "Let's go to R school together next time!"

"Why?"

"I heard that you can take as many basketballs as you want!"

"Huh?"

Himuro looked at Kagami in surprise, with suspicion in his eyes. How in the world would there be such a good deal?

However, Kagami pressed , “Its true!” Kagami had heard the rumour from a primary school classmate. That classmate seemed to have visited his relatives living near G park the week before, and his brothers had gone into R school.

R school had been abandoned for a number of years, and the children living around the area see it to be the perfect place to test their guts. And this means sneaking into the school ground at night, participating in the tests of courage.

That classmate gave a vivid description of the horrors of R school. Dark corridors, broken windows, lockers with its doors wide open containing some unidentified objects etc etc. The students listened with rapt attention. Kagami, who was uninterested in ghosts and the like, laughed and said, “You guys are really cowardly!” But there was something that caught Kagami’s attention.

“Inside the sports warehouse are piles of basketballs!”

Kagami got more and more excited, incidentally speaking louder and louder,. Himuro, who had been silent throughout, rested his chin with one hand, and thought (托着下巴思考起来。)

“Don’t tell me you intend to bring those basketballs back?”

Kagami nodded vigorously at that question.

“Yeah! since no one is using those basketballs, so it’s fine, right?”

“Oh – Is that so...?”

“They were treated as rubbish and thrown away, so isn’t it better if we take them back and use them? And since those balls are from a gym, they have to be better than ours, right?”

Kagami looked at the basketball in his hands. Its skin had become extremely smooth as due to the many rounds of street basketball.

“If its skin is not this smooth, I think I would have been able to catch it singlehandedly.”

While saying that, Kagami again tried to catch the basketball with one hand. But his effort is wasted as Kagami’s right hand grazes through the ball’s surface he couldn’t catch anything, the ball drops, leaving his hand moving about in the thin air.

“Damn it! Just a bit more!”

“I think its more than ‘just a bit’. You, not catching the ball are not the ball’s problem.”

Looking at Kagami staring at him , Himuro changed the topic with a wry smile.

“So? When are you going to get those balls?”

“its not decided yet!”

“.....so...how do you plan to bring them back?”

“Uh? Um... Carry them back?”

“Oh..... is that so...You didn’t plan anything at all, did you?”

"Yeah!"

Himuro shrugged helplessly and fiddled with his fringe as he thought of what to do next.

"... The distance between here and G park is about 20 miles. It'd be impossible for us to walk there."

20 miles, or around 32 kilometers. It was considerably far for a child.

"EH?! Its that far?!"

Kagami revealed a surprised expression. His mind had been full, thinking of getting those basketballs, but he did not think of a feasible plan on how he will be taking those basketballs.

Frowning, Kagami folded his arms and starts to think deeper. "Uuuuu...."

5 minutes later...

"Well, what about riding our bikes?"

Finally, they came to an answer. Himuro, who seemed to had already though of this possible conclusion that they would lead to, some time ago , answered vaguely, "Well, I guess that's the only way, then."

"If its just the two of us, this is the only way. It'll be more convenient since we're bringing back basketballs. But as regard about the bicycles..."

Himuro seems like he still has doubts about the idea, his expression did not relax. "Tatsuya, is cycling a bad idea for you are?"

"Yeah, a little. But we don't have a choice. Taiga, lets just cycle there."

Himuro finally revealed a smile. Kagami cheered, "Whooo!"

"Well then, approximately how many basketballs are there?"

"According to my classmate, there should be at least two crates full of them!"

"That's really a lot...even with bicycle, one trip may not be enough to transport all the basketballs. Looks like we'll be kept busy the entire day."

"Don't tell me we'll have to do it overnight too?!" Kagami's eyes gleamed with hope. "Excellent!"

Looking at the energetic Kagami that has his hands curled up into a fist, Himuro shook his head lightly

"Why're you so happy?"

"Because we're going to do it overnight! Isn't that cool? It feels so fulfilling!"

"Um... I guess so..." confused, Himuro smiled vaguely.

"But, if we're going to do it overnight, we will have to make some 'special preparations'!"

Himuro said with a smile so bright that kagami couldn't help but feels shiver down his .it is decided by Himuro that they would be carrying out their plan on the weekend.

In the morning of Saturday, because Kagami are too excited to sleep the night before, he took the chance to enter the kitchen while his parents were still asleep.

After finishing his breakfast quickly, Kagami put in food and water into a haversack and quickly left for the destination on his bike. The destination is at the park where Kagami and Himuro frequently played basketball.

Even though Kagami had intended to reach earlier, Himuro was already there waiting when he arrived. Himuro are leaning against the park's fence, with his bike parked next to him. His bicycle's front basket are the same as Kagami's, it had a bulging haversack.

"That's fast, Tatsuya!" Kagami's voice contained surprise and amazement as he parked his bicycle beside Himuro's.

"Really? Anyway, did you tell your parents about this?"

"Un!" Kagami thumped his chest excitedly. "I lied to them about going over to your place for an overnight stay. What about you, Tatsuya?"

"Of course I told them I would stay at your place tonight."

What Himuro had said about 'special preparations' referred to this.

As they had no idea how many basketballs there were, there are a chance that they would have to spend their Saturday and Sunday, transporting the basketballs. As a countermeasure, they decided to lie to their parents about going to the other party's house for an overnight stay. Thus, from now until tomorrow evening, both of them will have their own free time without getting disturb by anyone.

"Well, lets go!" Himuro sat on his bicycle and looked at Kagami.

"Taiga, did you remember the route we should be taking properly?"

"Uh..." Kagami spoke evasively, avoid looking into Himuro's eyes.

"Its really troublesome, that the person who suggested the idea is acts like this," Himuro laughed lightly, as he stepped on his pedal and left.

Looking at Himuro who are gradually leaving him behind, Kagami hastily sat on his bicycle and tries to catch up.

"Well, its because my house doesn't have a suitably-sized map...And anyway, Tatsuya, what about you?"

"I read the map carefully. In short, I memorized the route."

"Amazing! Really?!"

Under Himuro's guidance, the pair cycle side by side towards R school in the west. Due to the low humidity and dry air, the wind blew through their hair and stroked their cheeks.

"Riding a bike is really comfortable – " Kagami happily narrowed his eyes.

"That's because after arriving at America, the car is used as our means of transportation, it has been a long time since I experienced riding a bike.

"Is it really because of that?"

"because of– ? What do you mean?"

Seeing that Kagami is still unclear about it, Himuro looked around before answering.

"Basically, you don't see any child riding their bikes in this area, right? Well, there's a reason behind this."

"Really?" Kagami looked around.

It was then that Kagami noticed. The people on the pavement were walking, and basically no one would ride in their bikes like Kagami and Himuro. Even though this area has very few cars, as it's a residential area, the driveway is only occupied by a few cars, nobody seems to be using another means of transportation like them.

"Isn't it because there are more people driving their cars?"

"But children can't drive cars, right? Rather than driving cars, they are driven to their destinations. Again, what do you think is the reason?"

Himuro looked at Kagami and let him think. Recently, Himuro had been using such roundabout methods. Rather than simply answering Kagami's question straight, he make him think of the answer himself .

"This is so troublesome – " Kagami pouted.

The impatient Kagami Taiga disliked Himuro's methods.

" how about giving me the answer now! "

Himuro unceremoniously rejected Kagami's complaint.

"No can do. Taiga, you should use your brain from time to time. You always get bad marks for your exams because you never think."

Kagami didn't expect that to be mentioned. He blushed in embarrassment. A few days ago, his math test paper was seen by Himuro.

"Two points...!" To Himuro, this kind of result is unheard of. Seeing Kagami's test paper, Himuro seemed to suffer a huge blow, he remain stiff and dazed for almost half a day before he could recovered his composure

Also, "That's because I wasn't feeling well..." Facing with Kagami's many excuses, Himuro could only sigh.

Thinking aback, it was around that time that Himuro started to use the roundabout ways to communicate withtoKagami.

"That... I didn't understand the question because it was in english...!" In the end, Kagami found an appropriate excuse, but Himuro shook his head as if to say that it wasn't the case.

"For Math, even if you don't understand the question, you should be able to come up with an answer more or less. Generally, Japanese who came to America are mostly good at math, it's the only subject where we could score better as compared to the other subjects To think that you would actually score two points is too.....!"

"Naggy! That's for them, not for me! Even if I can't solve Math problems, I can still survive!"

"If you can't even add properly, you're going to have problems adding up basketball points."

"Oh..."

Kagami frowned. Indeed, Kagami always thought that if he could count the basketball points faster, it would be good.

Himuro opened his mouth to speak, worried, "Its not because your brain is bad or anything, its just that you never use your brain to think. I think that if you used your brain more, school wouldn't be a problem for you." Himuro encouraged Kagami.

"Ah – Eh?! Didn't you just praise me?!"

"See, you managed to get a subtle hint. That's why I said you are not stupid."

"Tatsuya -!"

Himuro laughed and avoided Kagami's Fury eye contact and returned to the topic, "Well, what is your answer to my question?"

"Why are those children traveling by car...??"

Staring intensely at Himuro's smile, Kagami frowned and bit his lips, as his brain whirred to life.

— To be continued —



source : [HERE](#)

AnimeMangaDaisuki, KUROBASU REPLACE 3 chapter 3 part 2

*ENGLISH...

 animemangadaisuki.tumblr.com/post/37410235233/kurobasu-replace-3-chapter-3-part-2-english

Kuroko No Basuke Replace III part 2 (continue)

- Translated by: **KisekiOhno**
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A car drove past Kagami and Himuro. Unintentionally, Kagami looks into the windows of the car. Seated Inside the car is a white-collared man. Once Kagami sees this, pieces of information starts entering his brain, he then began to arrange every piece together, coming out with a very simple answer.

“...because children can’t drive, which is why they have to depend on the adults to fetch them, right?”

“Yup, that’s correct.”

“Eh? Really?” Kagami looks at Himuro, slightly disappointed

Himuro turns his head and looks around for a moment before answering.

“Only adults are allowed to drive. Which also means that, whenever a child wants to go out, he has to be accompanied by an adult?”

“Isn’t that being over-protective? At least give us some freedom when it comes to going out to play.”

Speaking of it, Kagami thought of the nanny his parents employed. Being an American, she could only speak a few Japanese words, and would always have a face of dissatisfaction whenever Kagami ran out on his own to play basketball. After arguing fiercely against her, she unwillingly allowed him to play basketball. Noticing that Kagami are about to complain about something, Himuro opened his mouth to speak .

“Because this is what the law has dictated. After all, we might get kidnapped, which is why, they have no choice but to do this.”

“Kidnapping? How could someone get kidnap so easily?! ”

“Taiga, didn’t you say so yourself earlier? America is America, Japan is Japan. Furthermore, crime prevention is the role of the law itself .

“Well, that’s true... wait....that’s weird. Why are we discussing about this again?” Kagami was somewhat puzzled.

It could be that Kagami had forgotten why they were talking about this topic due to his excessive thinking.

As Kagami is trying to figure out the reason for their sudden change of topic, Himuro’s face expression has tightens and turned serious.

“Also, just having laws alone is not enough to prevent crime, right?” Saying this, Himuro held his brakes and jerked to a stop.

“Eh?”

Since it was quite sudden, Kagami did not have enough time to stop, and rode past Himuro. Hastily, he turned his bicycle back and head towards Himuro.

“What’s wrong, Tatsuya?”

As Kagami was riding back towards him, Himuro got down from his bicycle. Kagami looks at Himuro, unsure of what to do. While Himuro quickly glance through the private estate.

“Taiga...” Saying this, Himuro motioned for him to come closer with his index finger.

“What is it?”

As Kagami went over to Himuro, he lowered his voice and said, “Look at me, and don’t take your eyes off me. The police are looking at us.”

“Eh?”

“At the corner to the right behind you, there is a police car. They’re probably watching us.”

Kagami nervously tried to look behind.

“I told you, the police are watching us,” Himuro warned, and Kagami turned his head back.

“Why are they watching us?”

“Didn’t I told you? It’s to prevent crime. If they find out where we are going, we’ll be brought back home by the police.”

“Really?! What should we do then ...?”

“Taiga, calm down. Work with me.”

“W-w-work with you?”

Kagami fails to calm down. Hearing his nervous question, Himuro suddenly moves away from him, creating a distance between them. For some reason, he rubbed his eyes and said loudly, “Great! There’s no dust in my eyes.”

“HAA?!”

The unexpected remark made Kagami’s eyes grow wide in surprise. He stares at Himuro with his mouth wide open.

“Lets go home, then.”

“Ehhhh?!”

Kagami is even more surprised now, with his eyes threatening to pop out of its sockets. Leaving Kagami behind, Himuro made towards the direction of home. Or rather, push his bicycle towards the row of houses they went past earlier. It looks like he is really going home.

“Ta-Tatsuya?! EH?? Ah...!”

It was then that Kagami finally realized. Himuro is putting on an act. He had only pretended to go home to shake off the police. Even after understanding Himuro’s intentions. However, Kagami still had no idea what he has to do. Looking at Kagami who is now standing there motionless, Himuro sighed. He stop his bicycle at one side and goes

back to where Kagami is standing.

"I know you haven't had enough play time, but we should head back. I'll push the bike for you, so get off." Himuro held onto the handle.

"....."

Since Kagami had no idea how he should respond, Himuro ask him, "Alright?"

So far, Kagami had not say a single word, except to nods his head, and hastily comes down from his bicycle.

Himuro's hand, who is about to reach for the bicycle handlebar, comes in contact with Kagami's hand that is still holding the bicycle handlebar.

"!"

Himuro's hand is as cold as ice. Kagami breathe a sigh relieves from the tension. He looks at Himuro who had now taken over his bicycle and starts walking towards the housing area.

"Well then. Lets go."

Himuro pushed the bicycle along and starts walking into a red house. Laughter comes from inside the house. It seems like someone is still inside the house.

"It'll be OK right?... Tatsuya...!"

Kagami, who is following behind Himuro, is so nervous that his hands become damp with cold sweat and his heartbeat is gradually increasing. The two of them stopped at the hedgerow. Any further and it would be considered as illegal trespassing. Himuro stopped the bicycles and reached towards the doors in between of the hedgerow. Kagami is so nervous that he become stiff. At the same time, they finally hear the sound of the police car leaving.

"....."

Himuro put his hand down.

"... It seems like they finally left." Himuro let out a long sigh.

"... Its... Alright now?" Kagami seems tired and his voice was hoarse as he took the bicycle back from Himuro.

"Un. It seems like we made it." Himuro took his bicycle and back out of the driveway, before heading back to the path.

"I thought I am going to have a heart attack."

Kagami leans on the handles.

"I didn't expect the police to have their eyes on us."

"Them, having their eyes on us was faster than I had expected."

"HAA?" Kagami looks up at Himuro, surprise.

"Tatsuya... Don't tell me... You're already expecting this?!"

"Un, because riding on bicycles is too conspicuous."

Furthermore, since they are two Japanese boys being alone, they are bound to be target by kidnappers. Which is why, being eyed by the police would be expected.

"It's great, to think that my countermeasure for the police would work out this smoothly!"

Facing such a reply, Raising his voice Kagami asked in disbelief, "You even thought of a countermeasure for this?!?!"

"Un. Otherwise, how could I acted this naturally?"

"... From the start, you were thinking of tricking the police?"

"Don't say 'trick', it sounds terrible." Unhappy, Himuro pursed his lips and left on his bicycle, leaving Kagami behind.

Kagami hurriedly get on his bicycle in a bid to catch up with Himuro. While Kagami furiously pounds on his pedals, he looks at Himuro's back. While looking at his back, Kagami knew that even now, he is still being cautious. Himuro paid attention to his surroundings and is alert to any slight movements. Even though Kagami knew that Himuro would resort to anything to reach his goals, he didn't think that Himuro would think of ways to escape from the clutches of the police.

For a moment, looking at the guy who is in front of him, Kagami felt is a sense of pride, he is proud of Himuro, slowly he felt a warmth inside him.

he actually though and planed through to this extend, it really isn't easy! Kagami increase his speed, and rode side by side Himuro.

"As expected of Tatsuya - you're really amazing!" Kagami gave Himuro a slap on the back.

"It hurts -!" Himuro lost his balance and starts tilting to a side.

"What are you doing, Taiga?"

Finally, Himuro managed to stabilize himself, and glared at Kagami reproachfully. Kagami, however, did not seem to mind, and beamed at him.

"I'm touched! Tatsuya, you're amazing!"

"Hah?"

"You actually managed to trick the police! Its amazing! Really!"

Seeing the beaming Kagami, Himuro said, "Calm down, Taiga..." to no avail.

"... How is that amazing? That was terrible acting," Himuro's reasons to justify himself was drowned out by Kagami's cheers, "Tatsuya is really amazing! I'm really happy to have a brother like Tatsuya!" stating this Kagami grinned widely. Kagami's grin was unpretentious and sincere, Himuro could not help but smile.

"Now, really, Taiga. You..." Himuro laughed, happy yet a little shy, "I am just lucky to overcome those obstacle each time .

Without hesitating to leave the confused Kagami behind, Himuro sped off on his bicycle.

After that, the same situation would constantly appear, they were always eyed by the police nearby. Except that this time, even pedestrian would set their eyes on them. The pair are being alert and coutious. If they are to find anything amiss, they would pretend that they are going home, and make a detour before continuing their journey. Their act

has repeated for several times. Not only did it stretch the distance, it was also time-consuming.

As they were too busy watching out for the police, unknowing to them, they had deviated from their original goal of going west by going north.

"This is beyond my expectations..." said Himuro wearily as he sat on a chair at a park.

Beside Himuro is Kagami, whose mouth is full of hotdogs. He nodded his head to show his support. The journey had finally tired down the pair, and they bought food from the park's food vendor for a late lunch.

"If this goes on, it'll be dark before we could even reach there."

Himuro looks up at the sky and shut his eyes to block the sun's rays.

"Maybe we should avoid contact with other people and continue on?"

"... Should we hide?" Kagami, who had finished his first hotdog quickly and is already starting on the second hotdog, unintentionally asked.

"Eh?" Himuro opens his eyes and looks at Kagami, puzzled. "Hide? Where?"

"The forest!"

"Forest? Which forest?"

"Look, it's just there." Kagami stuffed the hotdog into his mouth and pointed towards the north.

Situated on the opposite of the housing area, lay a hill stretching from east to west

"That hill has many trees, so there should be many hiding spots," Kagami laughed as he swallows the hotdog.

"Hill, huh..." Himuro is a bit surprise. "Anyway, that should be a park... Its called the National Forest Park."

"Ehhh?! That huge area is actually a park?! I thought it was a hill! As expected of America, everything has to be big..." Amazed, Kagami looks northwards.

If they were to hide within the forested area, they would be able to evade the huge number of police's and moves towards their destination. Even though the idea of evading other people is interesting, Kagami was already tired. Reacting and changes accordingly when problems occur does not suit Kagami's character at all. Rather than taking the roundabout method, he would rather rush towards his destination.

"Hey, Tatsuya, lets go to the park and have a look."

"Un."

Himuro looked northwards towards the park. Then, as if wanting to sort out his thoughts, he looked up at the sky again, and closed his eyes. Kagami follows Himuro's actions, and turns his head upwards and closing his eyes too. Their eyelids could feel the glare of the sun, and the background noises starts to get louder.

Even though Himuro had always wanted Kagami to 'cool his head', what conclusions could he get if he were to do so?

Kagami, who had experienced this for the first time, relaxed. After awhile, the surrounding noise gradually becomes quieter and quieter...

"...Taiga... Taiga!"

As his shoulder was shook and being called by his name, Kagami wakes up. Looking at Himuro who is staring at him, Kagami blink.

"Eh... Tatsuya?"

"Taiga, don't fall asleep suddenly!"

"Eh? I... I fell asleep?!" Kagami hurried rubbed his eyes. "I originally wanted to think alongside with Tatsuya..."

"Don't tell me... You were copying me just now?"

Kagami turns his head to the side, attempting to avoids meeting the line of vision that Himuro stared at him. It was very awkward since he had actually fallen asleep when he was supposed to be thinking. Himuro was stunned for a moment, but he quickly laughed it off.

"Hahaha... You actually fell asleep while thinking?!"

"W-whats so funny?! And this is what you told me to do. You wanted to make me use my brain more!"

Himuro laugh even more when he sees how grumpy Kagami becomes.

"Alright, alright... Thinking certainly is a good thing. But I finally realized that to make you sit down and properly think is an impossible task."

"What is that suppose to mean?!"

Gently ruffling Kagami's head, Himuro stood up.

"Lets go to the park and try it out."

"Eh? Really?" Kagami's annoyance earlier seems to have evaporated, he jumps up in excitement. Himuro laugh and nods his head.

"Un. well we've already went past our schedule time, taking a slight risk that might consume us more time is not a bad idea/ Considerable . But there are many inclines there. You'd better not complain being tired later!"

"I won't - !"

As what Kagami had promised, he did not complain when they were riding up the inclines. Be it on the ramp of the National Forest Park, in the woods, or on the lush mountain trail, Kagami happily and enthusiastically moved forward.

On the other hand, it was their bicycles that protested. While they were riding towards the west through the National Forest Park, Kagami's and Himuro's bicycles' tires punctured. their tires punctured as they had decided to take a bumpier route to avoid meeting people.

In the natural bright tunnel that is formed by the lined of woods, the pair sat down in front of their respective bicycles.

"What should we do...?" Kagami held up the completely deflated tire.

There is no other use for the deflated tire, the only thing they could do is to walk.

"Looks like we'll have to leave our bikes here..." Himuro looks at the bicycle, and straightened himself up as he had given up hope of patching it up.

"Isn't it too tiring if we put our bicycles aside and walks there?"

"Un, it will be difficult... But we don't have a choice."

"So we'll leave it here?"

"Haa?"

Kagami's sudden remarks made Himuro slightly confused.

"Kagami, what did you said earlier? Leave our bikes here...?"

"Un, that's right. We'll leave our bikes here and go on."

"Are you for real? Leave our bikes here and move on? What are you thinking?"

"But these bikes would only cause us problems since its tries are punctured, right? Even though it'll be difficult for us to bring the basketballs back, I'm sure we'll think of a way when we get there."

Kagami noticed Himuro's shock expression, but he did not care , and walked towards the side of the forest.

"Taiga?!" Himuro hurriedly tries to catch up.

Kagami looks around, and found a huge rock.

"Lets just leave it there," saying this, he went towards the rock.

"If we hide it here, we won't have to worry about it being stolen, right?" Kagami locks his bicycle.

Himuro looks back at the trail. Indeed, if they were to hide their bicycles underneath the huge rock, it would be on the blind spot to those passersby, so they would not notice the bicycles.

"We'll just bring our tools back to repair them next time. What do you think, Tatsuya?" Kagami asked for Himuro's opinion.

Himuro turn his eyes onto Kagami and stare intently at him, before sighing gently.

"..... Taiga, you really are a miraculous big idiot..."

"What?!"

After giving Kagami a huge blow, he walks towards the trail.

"T-Tatsuya?! Wouldn't this method work?"

"No, there's nothing wrong with this method. We'll do as you said and hide the bikes here. But we need to leave some marks so we can find them next time."

"Oh, is that so? Well leave it to me!"

Himuro placed his bicycle inside the rocky crevice, while Kagami set to work, he picked up some dead branches to use as a marker, and later plant it in the soil on the side of the road near to the hiding place of their bicycle. After doing so, Kagami pats the ground with his hands, and ask Himuro, "How's this?", to which Himuro nods his head in approval.

Stepping on the soft soil, the pair hurriedly continue to go on their way. However, the difference between walking and cycling is huge. Time trick by slowly, with the sun setting in the west bit by bit. Thanks to Himuro bringing the torchlight in his haversack, they were able to navigate through the dark forest.

-End of part 2-



other source [HERE](#)

AnimeMangaDaisuki, KUROBASU REPLACE 3 chapter 3 part 3

*ENGLISH...

 animemangadaisuki.tumblr.com/post/38456669959/kurobasu-replace-3-chapter-3-part-3-english

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- Proofread by: **Animemangadaisuke/Amber**
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KuroBasu III 3g EL part ¾

“Should we stop here for today?” Himuro finally stopped walking.

“Shouldn’t we go a little further?” Kagami stared at the path in front of him, as if to trail the path in front of him by making it smaller in his mind.

However, since the torchlight can only shone a limited range of distance, so it was difficult to find out where they were going.

Himuro replied, “No, this is enough.” He shone his torchlight onto the pavilion at the side. When he read the park’s map, it did show that there was a pavilion at that area. “Since we are already at the pavilion, it means that we no longer need to go west. Today we’ll just stop here and rest. Tomorrow, we’ll head towards south and leave this park.”

Regarding Himuro’s suggestion, Kagami had no objection at all, and the pair walked into the pavilion and found nothing in it except stools, the stool are designated in a U-shape. Sitting on a stool, Kagami took out two rice balls he had made that morning from his haversack. If he were to bring food during peak of summer, it would have already turned bad. However, they came during a colder season, it was not a problem.

“As expected, Japanese people should eat rice! This is yours. I prepared some for you too!

“Uwa! Thanks... Eh?”

Looking at the rice ball he had taken from Kagami, Himuro’s eyes widened.

“It’s really big...”

Even though Himuro was holding the plastic-wrapped rice ball with two hands, it was still considered big. Since the rice ball was completely covered with seaweed, it looked like a black ball at first glance.

“It’s alright. I used a lot of ingredients to make these. Its taste fantastic!”

Looking at Kagami starting to take big bites out of his rice ball, Himuro laughed.

“No, I’m not worried about that... But to think that you would be able to make such huge rice balls!”

“I used a bowl to make its shape. Won’t it be cooler if we ate a huge rice ball than small ones?”

“Taiga you... ...are really a surprising guy.”

“Itadakimasu!” Himuro said to Kagami, and took a bite out of the rice ball. “Un, its delicious! Ah – I ate some beef jerky!”

Hearing Himuro’s praise, Kagami grinned.

"Other than beef jerky, I also added tuna, canned beef, dried bonito and cheese, and..." In one hand Kagami held up his rice ball, on the other hand he held the ingredients used to make the rice balls.

At first, Himuro laughed when he saw how serious Kagami was. Suddenly, he turned away, surprised. His expression became grim as he stared into the darkness. Seeing how nervous Himuro was, Kagami too looked into the darkness.

"...What's over there?" Himuro whispered, as he put his rice ball on a stool.

"What's that?" Kagami also put his rice ball down, and looked there carefully. Wondering where it is. It is impossible for them to see clearly in the dark "I'm guessing... It's not human."

Warily, the two of them stood up from their seats and moved towards the center of the pavilion. Himuro had made the decision to flash his torchlight towards to the direction of the unidentified objects

PITTER PATTER PITTER PATTER

Noises that sounded like something stamping on the ground echoed. A sound that seemed to be something stamping on the ground rang out. At the same time, the image of the creature unlike a human appeared on the spot that Himuro shone with his torchlight. Its body was crouching as it ran out. Himuro placed himself in front of Kagami to protect him.

"Tatsuya!" Kagami called out.

The creature rushed out at Himuro.

"Uwaaaa!"

Overwhelmed by its tremendous strength, Himuro got pushed by that creature and ends up pushing kagami who are at the back of him, in the ground too.

The two of them fell to the ground with a loud 'THUD'.

"Uuuuu... Tatsuya?!"

Kagami scrunched up his face in pain. It appears that he had hurt his waist. He sat up, and looked at Himuro.

"Tatsuya...! Are you alright?.. EEEEKKKKKKkkkkk!!!!" Kagami shriek before Himuro could even answer him.

Looking at the situation in front of him, Kagami moved backwards rapidly, using his hands and legs like a spider.

"Ta- Tatsuya!" Kagami cried out in fear, with his face all white.

Through the light emitted from the torchlight that was lying on the ground, Kagami could see Himuro keeping the same posture and lies on the ground.

"Wait – don't! Stop, it itches!"

Taking a closer look, the attacker was a golden retriever licking Himuro's face.

"Hey, calm down..." Himuro rubbed the dog's ears to appease it; it finally got off Himuro's body and sat down.

"Haaah, that really scared me..."

"The person who got scared should be me!" Looking at them with his back on the walls of the pavilion, Kagami cried out. "Why is there a dog in such a place?!"

"...Why?" Himuro turned his head towards the golden retriever.

The golden retriever was sitting on the floor obediently, wagging its tail as if it were cleaning the floor. Himuro patted its head, and its tail started wagging even more.

"This dog seems to be used to humans... Ah. A collar." Himuro noticed the collar, and fiddled. It appears to have a dog tag beneath the collar.

"There's a name engraved on it... Taiga, give me the torchlight." Himuro turned his head, and pointed to the torch that was lying by Kagami's feet.

"No no no!!" Kagami shook his head frantically, causing his head to be blurred due to his violent movements.

Himuro could not help but be worried that Kagami might shake his head off.

"I-I- I'm not good with dogs! I can't do this!"

"Taiga, do you really hate dogs this much?" Himuro reluctantly got up and picks the torchlight up himself.

However, The unwanted golden retriever followed behind Himuro's back and run towards Kagami too. As a result, the distance between Kagami and the retriever decreased.

"Uwaaa!" Kagami gave another surprising scream, and ran behind a pillar, held on to it.

"Don't come closer! Didn't I tell you not to come closer? If you come closer, heaven knows what I might do to you!"

"Taiga, calm down..." Himuro picked up the torchlight, and brought the dog over to the pillar that was furthest away from Kagami.

"The name engraved on the collar is... [Alex]."

With the torchlight shining on the collar, Himuro read out the dog's name. Upon hearing its own name, Alex gave out a bark in reply.

"AIYEEEEEE!" Kagami screamed again and jumped up the pillar, holding on to it.

As Himuro was being amazed by Kagami's jumping power, he heard his pleas.

"Ta-Tatsuya! That dog, think of ways to fix this problem!"

"Think of ways?"

"Just think of ways to get rid of it!"

"Even if you say that, I can't do anything about it."

Himuro looked at the dog Alex. The good natured Alex was sitting down, looking at Himuro happily.

"Isn't she such an obedient child?"

Its even called Alex. It reminded them of the person who taught them basketball, Alexander•Garcia. Her nickname was also Alex.

"Even their names are the same, don't you think its nice?"

"Who cares about that?! I don't think it's nice! Not even for a second!" shouted Kagami, who was holding on to the pillar like a koala bear.

"Is that so...?" Himuro said as he patted Alex's head again.

"Ah, that's right. If we were to sleep with Alex, we would be able to withstand tonight's cold weather."

"Haa?"

Listening to Himuro's surprising suggestion, Kagami nearly fell off the pillar. He hurriedly climbed up the pillar again.

"You're obviously out to get me!"

"That's not true. It's to prevent colds, and anyway I just think that it's nicer to sleep like this. Although it's not as cold as winter right now, it'll be able to replace blankets."

"Then I'd rather catch a cold!"

Looking at the obstinate Kagami, Himuro's eyebrows slid down and said, "If you want to succeed, the will to challenge everything is important."

"Uu!", Himuro cried suddenly, squatting down, making painful noises with his mouth.

"Tatsuya!" Kagami frantically came down from the pillar and ran to Himuro, looking at the color of Himuro's face.

"Tatsuya! Are you alright? Where are you hurting?"

"Taiga..."

Himuro cried out painfully, and grabbed Kagami's hand. As if he were enduring a great pain, Himuro held on to Kagami's hand tightly.

"Tatsuya, where! Where does it hurt?!" Uneasily, Kagami held Himuro's hand tightly as well.

"If you were to ask me where it hurts..." Himuro used even more strength to hold on to Kagami's hand, "... I've caught you!"

"Eh?"

Himuro opened his eyes and looked at Kagami and laughed.

"As expected, the will to challenge everything is important!" After saying that, Himuro placed Kagami's hand on Alex's back.

"UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!" Kagami's cries of desperation filled the forest that night.

Kagami who are deceived by Himuro sulks on the side....

"Hey, be a little happier." Himuro sat himself opposite of Kagami, in the pavilion.

However, Kagami continued sitting on the bench with his back facing Himuro refusing to give him a reply.

"I didn't mean any harm. Isn't there a therapy called the 'scared therapy?' I thought that maybe if you touched the dog your phobia of dogs would be cured."

Unknowingly, Himuro had already repeated his explanations many times, but Kagami stubbornly refused to turn his

back to face him.

As the night progressed it became quieter.

Alex was lying by Himuro's feet with its eyes closed, it seems to have fallen asleep.

"Ah-choo!" Kagami made a small sneeze. Quivering, before clasping his knees and curls up into a ball.

Even though the weather had become warmer, it was still rather cold at night.

"Taiga, are you alright?" Himuro asked as he looks at Kagami's back.

Of course, Kagami did not reply. He pouted as he looked into the pitch-black forest.

Even after he had repeatedly told Himuro that he was terrified of dogs, Himuro still went ahead and did such a thing; it was just too much!

Then again, even though he felt that Himuro had went overboard, he did not know how to reconcile with Himuro, who had been apologizing profusely. He felt that he had missed the chance to speak...

While Kagami was battling against himself internally, he inevitably let out another sneeze.

Its so cold...! Kagami shivered as he sank his head his head down a little.

Tsk!

A rustling sound was heard, and a familiar and warm body slid up.

"!"

Kagami turned his head to see Himuro leaning against his back.

"If its like this, we'd be a little warmer," Himuro turned his head and spoke. "We have to work hard to get those basketballs tomorrow, so we'd better rest up."

"Tatsuya..... I'm sorry. My emotions got the better of me."

The words that he had been struggling to say earlier were so easily said out. However, he still felt a little awkward about it. After apologizing, Kagami did not turn back to look at Himuro, and buried his face into his knees.

"No, the person who should be apologizing is me. ...Sorry," Himuro said as he leaned back against Kagami's back.

Himuro's weight was transferred onto Kagami. It was indeed much warmer than before, compared to when he was alone. This made him a little bit happy, shy and complacent at the same time. But Kagami, who is not very good at communicating with others, only muttered, "It's heavy...."

The next morning kicked off with one of Kagami's screams. The moment he woke up he saw Alex lying at his feet from who-knows-when. Himuro, who was woken up by Kagami's frantic screams, quickly led Alex out of the pavilion. That finally calmed Kagami down. The pair split the fruits they brought and had a simple breakfast, and hurried towards the park's exit.

Kagami run quickly, with Himuro chasing behind at an astonishing speed down the hill. Himuro was chasing behind Kagami, and Alex was chasing behind Himuro.

"That's why I said, why did we had to bring this fella along?!" While trying to maintain a safe distance from Alex, Kagami turned behind and asked Himuro.

"It can't be helped, you know. It just wanted to follow us. Taiga, don't you think it likes you?"

Kagami stared grumpily at the beaming Himuro. Suddenly, he dashed downwards with a black face, with his mouth shouting, "Damn it! I absolutely! Won't let you catch up with me!"

Thanks to Kagami's efforts, the two of them left the park earlier than expected. Alex, however, followed the pair closely, which rendered Kagami's efforts useless.

"Why did it have to follow us..." At a certain corner in a park near a residential area, Kagami was at loss.

But at another corner, the fella that was causing Kagami headaches was at a water tap, Himuro had helped it unscrew the faucet and it was drinking happily.

It was unruffled, and it seems to say that they should be glad that they got some exercise. Kagami hid himself in a corner far away from Alex, and glared at it furiously.

Himuro patted Alex's head, and, for the first time since they left, spoke, "Its sad, what should we do with this child?"

"I had been telling you since yesterday! Ignore it! Just throw it away!"

"But if we were to throw it away here, wouldn't it be very pitiful?"

While Himuro mouthed the words 'pitiful', he thought about how pitiful Alex would be. His face darkened.

"What! It obviously has nothing to do with us!" Kagami's words no longer have the pressure he had earlier.

"Arf!" Alex barks, and seems to be saying that it had drank enough water.

Himuro closed the faucet up and squatted beside Alex.

Himuro scratched Alex's ears and asked, "Alex, where did you come from? Did anything happen to your master?" But Alex only stared at him with its black eyes.

"Your fur is really clean, seems like your master really doted on you, huh."

As Himuro had said, Alex's fur had been combed neatly, and it seemed that it had not been out on the streets for very long. Himuro's kneading actions were very gentle, and Alex leaned in to rub his nose on his neck.

"Wait, eh, Alex, it itches!" Alex licked Himuro's face, and he laughed.

To Kagami, this action seems very life-threatening. He shouted in his heart, "Tatsuya will die!", but other than turning towards their direction and stare at them, he did nothing else.

"Well that's an adorable dog. What's its name?" someone asked, following the direction of that voice, they saw a woman standing there.

"Eh? That..." To be suddenly asked like that, Kagami got so frightened that his eyes became round.

The woman was holding a Welsh Corgi, its round eyes surveyed Kagami.

"!!" Since the distance was too close, Kagami froze up. The woman, however, did not notice anything amiss and happily walked towards Himuro.

"That's an adorable dog. How old is it?"

Himuro was taken aback at the lady's question, but when he sees that she was staring at Alex intently, he realized

that she had been asking about Alex's age and not his.

"Uh... I'm not too sure how old it is. But its name is Alex."

"Ah, so it's Alex. You must be very happy to be walking with these two brothers, eh?" The lady said as he patted Alex's head, satisfied, and continued, "Well then, work hard at your walk!" before leaving.

"Taking a walk with the two brothers, eh..." Himuro murmured.

On the other hand, Kagami seemed to have recovered himself from that encounter with the dog, and was taking deep breaths.

"Don't tell me..." Kagami looks around him carefully, and what he saw stunned him.

No matter what, it's clear that it is still morning. But from all directions, were people walking their dogs.

"Is this hell...!"

.....

"Taiga, I thought of a good idea."Himuro told the trembling Kagami

".....What?"

"A method to reach R school safely and successfully."

"Eh...?! Really?"

Kagami, who had been dazed for some time, suddenly had a gleam in his eyes. "What should we do?!"

Himuro laughed.

"Take a walk with Alex."

As regard to Himuro's suggestion, Kagami was naturally against it.

"But if we were to have Alex with us, wouldn't there be many people looking at us?"

Under Himuro's persistent persuasion, Kagami finally reluctantly agreed. In fact, them, walking Alex is a very good thing. Even though the situation was the same as the day before with two boys moving on their own, the adults did not focus on them anymore. Walking the dog gave the impression of a very close relationship between two brothers. Glancing at them, this was what the passers-by see of Kagami and Himuro. But of course, the reality is not like that. Kagami made Himuro stand between him and Alex, to ensure as much distance between them as possible.

"There's nothing you should be afraid of..." Himuro is already getting tired of saying this.

Instead, he changed the topic to divert Kagami's attention and to make him relax. The first topic would naturally be about basketball. When it comes to basketball, there would be an endless amount of topics to talk about. At first, Kagami did not respond well, but after Himuro's relentless talking, he finally forgot the fact that there was a dog walking alongside with them, and he started to talk passionately about basketball. While they were chatting, they would sometimes laugh, or break out in an occasional fight as they made towards their destination. No matter what to any person, this scene would just seem like a pair of very close brothers.

Two boys and one dog, finally reached R school just before noon. As what the rumours had said, the school was in ruins. Many of the school's windows were broken, and much of the walls had already mottled off. The rest are all covered by ivy and fern, it was hard to imagine that it had been a school once.

"Amazing - ! This place is really tattered!"

Standing outside the school's walls, Kagami said honestly, as he looked towards the school.

"Let's find a way in," Himuro suggested as he led Alex around the outer walls to look.

Kagami sped up his pace, but continued to maintain a safe distance between him and Alex as he caught up with them.

- source - [HERE](#)

AnimeMangaDaisuki, KUROBASU REPLACE 3 chapter 3 part 4

*ENGLISH...

 animemangadaisuki.tumblr.com/post/40598757616/kurobasu-replace-3-chapter-3-part-4-english

sorry for the wait guysss!! PART 4(THE LAST PART) IS HERE!!

- Translated by: KisekiOhno
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- READ PART 1 / 2 / 3 [HERE](#)

Part 4

A drop of cold water dripped onto Kagami's forehead.

"Eh?" Kagami looked up.

The sky that were clear earlier, but hadhad been darkened without Kagami's knowledge. Dark grey clouds covered the landscape.

Is it going to rain? As Kagami was thinking this, huge drops of rain fell down.

"Uwaaa, whats with this?!"

The sudden heavy downpour made it impossible for Kagami to open his eyes, so he could only shout.

"Taiga, this way!"

"Huh?"

Kagami had to put his hands on his forehead to block out the rain so that his eyes could finally open. He saw Himuro standing, and ran towards him. Their bodies were finally sheltered by the building; it seemed that they had found its entrance.

As soon as Kagami entered the building, Himuro closed the door, hiding themself from the rain. The sudden downpour had soaked Kagami to the bone.

"Uwaa, I'm all wet."

Kagami took out a towel from his haversack and looked around at his surroundings as he wiped himself. Kagami and Himuro seemed to have entered the school through the emergency exit. There were no other marked entrances in sight; only two corridors that stretched from left to right. Even though it was still day time, the building was in darkness.

There were creepy looking unlocked lockers lining the corridor. Kagami could not help but gulped.

Himuro, standing beside Kagami, patted Alex's head and said, "Alex, stay here and wait for us."

Alex obediently sat on the floor.

"Good boy," Himuro laughed and said, before turning to Kagami, "Well then, shall we get moving?"

"Eh? Is it alright to just leave this fella here? Wait, can he even understand what you're saying?!" Kagami pointed to

Alex as he asked Himuro.

So far, Alex did not stop chasing after Kagami no matter what he said, yet unexpectedly, in surprised it obeyed Himuro's words at a critical juncture.

Himuro nodded nonchantly.

"Un. Alex will obey as long as you talk to him nicely."

Kagami looked at Alex through the corners of his eyes. Indeed, Alex had always been more obedient to Himuro. No, or rather, he thought Alex obeyed Himuro more because Kagami wasn't really concerned about Alex.

"And anyway if we were to bring Alex along it would be troublesome for you, right?"

Facing Himuro's concern, Kagami nodded his head. He was already in an eerie abandoned school, and it would be bad if he had to make contact with something which he feared. It would be even more troublesome to meet anything that is scarie.

Kagami shook his head at the thought of it. Thinking about this point, Kagami shook his head.

"Huh? Don't tell me I'm actually afraid? Wait... What's this feared things or object? Does it refer to the school premises or.....?"

"How could I be afraid!" Kagami blurted out with a sudden feeling of anger.

His sudden out burst surprised Himuro. "Uwaa- whats up with you?"

Kagami stared straight into Himuro's eyes.

"Tatsuya, I'm not afraid at all!"

"Huh? Taiga, you're not afraid of Alex anymore?"

"No! That's another matter! No, I'm not talking about this... Anyway, I'm not afraid!" Kagami simply refused to admit that he was scared, and wanted to tell Himuro that he wasn't afraid at all. "That's right! I'm not afraid!" Kagami said suddenly, to calm himself down.

Himura was surprised by Kagami's reaction.

"... Though I don't understand what you're talking about, lets go."

"Un!" Kagami answered heartily. Not unexpected, Himuro only shook his head.

As they were looking for their target, however, Kagami's actions began to confuse Himuro.

"..... Taiga?"

"..... Yeah?"

Holding a flashlight, Himuro suddenly shot Kagami a question.

"The color on your face, it's a little pale, isn't it?"

"... That's your imagination."

"You're sweating bullets too, you know?"

"..... I told you, its your imagination!"

"... Are you afraid?"

"Who says I'm afraid – "

Seeing the Kagami who had been deliberating over the issue before giving an answer, Himuro laughed

"Taiga, don't try to act tough."

"I'm not acting tough!"

"... Is that so. That's good, then." With that, Himuro stopped talking.

The rain and wind blew through the broken windows, wetting the school's floors. Through the wet corridor's floor came the echoes of footsteps of the two boys. The silent and still atmosphere only made Kagami's face paler. Kagami could not understand why his body started to become gradually colder when they entered the building.

As he looked at the lockers, he felt that at any moment, something could fly out. When he thought of this, his mind could no longer flush the idea out. Even though his body was cold, it was sweating cold sweat.

What's wrong with me? Kagami was puzzled with his strange experience. He turned to Himuro, intending to say something. Even though he did not know what to talk about, he needed something to turn his attention away from. However, he was unable to make a sound. Thus, Kagami could only look away.

Kagami looked at Himuro, he saw that Himuro's expression was stiff as if he was nervous. It was Kagami's first time seeing this side of Himuro, and he began to wonder if he saw 'something' that he was not supposed to see.

-No, No no, that's not right. This must've been due to the darkness of the place. Himuro is still Himuro. In order to dispel such thoughts, Kagami clenched his fists.

"Ah, this should lead to the gymnasium."

Himuro's voice pulled Kagami's thoughts back to what was in front of them. Himuro shone his torchlight onto the wall to see the sign plastered on it. It was indeed the gymnasium.

"We'll be able to get the basketballs in a little while." Himuro grinned at Kagami.

This was Himuro's usual expression, one that Kagami was familiar with. Thus, Kagami was finally able to feel relieved.

"After we get the basketballs, lets go back. I'm hungry."

Hearing Kagami say that, Himuro laughed and said, "That's right."

Following the instructions on the sign, the pair finally managed to enter the gymnasium. They found that the gymnasium was not as they expected it to be, however it does have the basic structure of one. Finding the sports equipment room was not difficult. The lock of the equipment room had already broken a long time ago, They pushed the door open, a pungent smell burst forth. The two could not help but frown, and hesitated.

"This is..... Really bad."

"Oh yeah, the guy at my class said that entering the equipment room really needs a lot of courage."

"Courage, huh..." Himuro muttered, and suddenly stepped into the equipment room.

REAK CREAK CREAK.....

The floor made an annoying sound. At the same time, (a susurrous ssh-ssh sound which sounded like something was moving on the ground was emitted) "I don knw how to fix this". Himuro backed out from the room.

"Just now... Wasn't there a weird sound?"

Kagami sigh after hearing Himuro's question.

"Aah, that's probably... c-cockroaches..."

"Wait, it might even be rats."

"I-is that so... But no matter what it is, isn't it very annoying?!"

"It is rather annoying..."

Himuro carefully shone the torchlight into the equipment room. At the very end of the room, he could see a crate full of basketballs.

"It's that, right..."

"Yeah, that's it."

Himuro and Kagami stood at the entrance of the equipment room, and looked at the basketballs.

The distance between them and the basketballs was probably about 10 steps. But these 10 steps seemed like a huge distance for them at that moment.

Suddenly, a huge gust of wind blew in, and the whole gymnasium seemed to shake. Huge droplets of rain were blown into the gymnasium through the broken windows and onto the floor.

"Taiga, stay here and wait for me."

"Eh?"

Himuro smiled at the shocked Kagami.

"After I enter the room, I'll throw the basketballs out one by one, so Taiga, you stay here and receive them."

"W-why?! I want to go in and fetch the balls too!"

"Un, which is why I told you to stay here. We'll use the passing method to do it," Saying this, Himuro stepped into the room.

REAK CREAK CREAK

With each step Himuro took, the floor made sounds of protest. Kagami had originally wanted to go in as well, but since the floor was weak due to old age and seemed like it was about to collapse, Kagami was so scared that he backed out of the room.

"Tatsuya! Are you alright?" Kagami called out loudly.

Himuro answered without looking back, "Un, I'm still OK for now..."

Creak CREAK CREAK!

The floor beneath Himuro made a sound that was different from the others.

"Eh..."

His right leg doesn't feels right at all, Himuro did not understand what was happening at first. With the sound CRICK CRACK, Himuro's right leg sank with the collapse of the floor.

"It hurts!" Himuro, who had lost his balance suddenly, shouted out in pain.

"Tatsuya!"

"Taiga, don't come any closer!"

Seeing that the flustered Kagami was about to rush in and help Himuro, he raised his head to stop him.

"Perhaps you might fall in too."

"But Tatsuya, your leg...!"

Himuro's right leg, from the knee downwards, had sunk into the floor.

"..... It sunk into the floor, that's all. This isn't a big deal."

Himuro sat himself onto the floor in an attempt to pull his leg out. However, another unstable sounding noise came out from where his hand was; Himuro immediately stopped what he was doing.

"... Tatsuya, you can't pull it out?"

Facing Kagami's question, Himuro could only have his back facing him, unable to answer.

"... Tatsuya...?" He asked again.

However, there was still no answer. Kagami , unable to take it, stepped into the equipment room. The creak cracking noise sounded again, which made Himuro turn his head.

"Idiot! Didn't I tell you that this was dangerous?"

Himuro sounded stricter than usual, which made Kagami shiver

"Then what should I do?!" Kagami struggled with his powerlessness, and shouted.

The rainwater that had came in from the broken windows started to wet him. Himuro did not reply. The only sounds that could be heard were the sound of the rain.

".....Tsk."

The only things that came into Kagami's mind were, "What should I do... What should I do... What should I do...!" His mind was full of these, and he could not think of a solution. Himuro had always told him to use his brain, and there was no better time than now to use it, if not now, when will it be?! However, his mind was empty and he could not think of anything. Blaming himself for his failure, he forcibly closed his eyes, the feelings of defeat, made kagami blamed himself more.

Creak crack ...

Re-thinking about the creak cracking noises, Kagami looked up at Himuro. Himuro was currently on another spot trying to pull his leg out, Himuro was trying out a different position trying to escape. He carefully placed his centre of

gravity into his palms. Looking at Himuro struggling, Kagami was suddenly reminded of what he said.

[For Taiga, sitting down obediently and thinking is impossible.] – That's right. If I can't sit down and think, then moving about might help.

Kagami slapped the sides of his cheeks to pull himself together, and looked at his surroundings. Amazingly, the frustrating things that he was thinking about earlier disappeared. He found the answer that he needed.

Kagami faced Himuro's back and shouted loudly, "Tatsuya! Hang in there! I'm going to get the ropes!"

Puzzled, Himuro looked back at Kagami. But by then, Kagami had already run to a place near the entrance of the equipment room. Kagami opened up the room's doors at one go, and what met him was a dark corridor. He felt scared in his heart – But who cares! Kagami looked for it carefully in the dark, and walked through the corridor.

At this point...

It was slippery. Something cold and wet touched Kagami's shoulders.

"UWAAAAAAAAAAAAA!"

Kagami was bent on finding the rope, and flicked the thing to one side.

"Taiga?!" Himuro's worried cries came from a distance.

Kagami turned behind towards Himuro's direction, and had intended to yell out to him, "I'm fine, you just stay there!" but when he turned behind, he got hit by something smelly.

"IIYAAAAAAAAAAAAAA~"

Kagami's screams, the smell of rain, the stench of an animal, as well as someone calling out his name, were the last thing Kagami knew before he lost consciousness.

"You two idiot apprentices!"

Even though the tone of her voice was harsh, her actions show the opposite as she helped Himuro. Himuro's head snapped out from its bowing position, and looked up at the person who saved them – the one who taught them basketball, Alexander Garcia, with her blonde hair and clothes wet by the rain.

Looking at her state, Himuro knew that she did not even bother to bring an umbrella as she rushed out to look for him and Kagami.

They were now inside a car at the front of R school. Alex settled Himuro in the passenger seat as she sat herself in the driver's seat and helped Himuro with his leg injuries. The unconscious Kagami was lying in the second row, and the golden retriever Alex sat obediently at the last row.

".....Alex, how did you find us here?" Himuro asked in a small voice.

Alex stopped her actions as she answered. "Because I received a call that you two were missing. I went up to your room and found a map."

Alex knew of the 'Himuro and Kagami went missing since yesterday' incident that morning. The reason they were found missing is because Himuro's family had contacted Kagami's family.

"Our child is going over to your house for a sleepover, but we thought that it was better if we gave you a call to send our regards..."

Thus, with this call, the two children's lies were exposed, and a huge uproar was caused. Alex, who had received a call, rushed over to the Himuro's. In order to find out the two's whereabouts, she went into Himuro's room, which was where she found the map. The map seemed to have been read many times, and there were many markings from his house to R school. That was how she found out their destination.

When Alex, who had travelled to R school alone, went into the school's building, a docile golden retriever rushed up to her. While following it to find the two of them, they found Kagami first. Even though finding someone was a happy thing, Kagami seemed to look flustered. So when Alex put her hand onto Kagami's shoulder and was intending to tell him, "Calm down", for some reason he screamed and flicked her hand away. Alex was about to teach Kagami a lesson, but the golden retriever by her side seemed to want to play, and rushed up to him. When Alex went over to find Himuro, she found him unable to move, with his leg stuck in the ground. Alex managed to save Himuro narrowly, and brought him over to her car.

After hearing the explanation, Himuro said in a soft voice, "What, so it's actually like that..."

"And that dog seems to be attached to the two of you... What's going on?"

"It seems to be a lost dog. It might have escaped from somewhere."

"Is that so... Well anyway, I'm done with your leg."

Alex patted Himuro's knee.

"It hurts!" Himuro whimpered.

Alex started the engine and drove off, with the golden retriever, Kagami, and Himuro in it. In the car, everyone was quiet. Not a single word was spoken since Alex stepped on the throttle. Himuro was sitting in the front seat, and heard a snore from behind. When he looked back, he saw Kagami snoring loudly with his mouth wide open.

".....Is he asleep?"

Himuro was speechless for a moment by Alex's sudden question, and could only manage a "uh" as a reply.

"He can scream and he can sleep, he really is busy." The culprit for Kagami's fear of ghosts lamented.

"I guess he must be tired because we slept out in the open last night."

"Speaking of which, aren't you the same... Do you want to sleep?" Alex glanced at Himuro.

To Himuro, even though he could only see the side of Alex's face, her expressions now were softer than from earlier.

"Maybe she calmed down," Himuro thought as he looked at Alex.

"What's wrong? Do you have something to say?"

Sensing that Himuro was looking at her, Alex looked at the road ahead and asked.

"... You're not angry anymore?"

"I'm not angry anymore. The two of you will have to face your respective family's anger, though."

Himuro continued looking at Alex.

Alex continued, "Well, I can understand where you're coming from. If I were you, I would take the balls too if I could. But being injured for the sake of this is crossing the line."

“..... Sorry.” Himuro lowered his head and apologized as he looked at his right leg.

When his leg was pulled out from the floor, it caused many abrasions, his wounds throbbing, and sending waves of pain. Luckily, he was able to cope with some simple treatment, which was the only fortunate thing that happened.

seeing Himuro’s sad expression, without a word she told him gently, “But Taiga was not injured. You did your best, older brother.”

“..... Don’t cajole me like a child,” Himuro’s voice was gloomy.

Himuro’s own gloomy voice seemed to scare him, and his shoulders could not stop shaking.

Alex glanced at him again, “But you ARE a child. Don’t force yourself to mature so quickly,” as Alex said this, she turned the steering wheel.

Himuro turned his eyes to the wet window.

Alex faced Himuro’s back and continued, “Tatsuya, don’t always compress your feelings because of him.”

“..... I don’t.” Himuro looked at the rain outside, and answered bitterly. “Its not for him. All this, is for my sake. I can’t let him know it’s for his sake. This kind of thing...” Himuro suddenly stopped.

From the start he had thought that this was a foolhardy plan. He did not think that two children’s plan of heading out alone would be successful. However, the rumours about basketball was attractive, and compared to this – facing Kagami’s excited face as he had said those words; he wanted to live up to Kagami’s trust.

Looking at him who had believed in Himuro (himself), Kagami who had firmly believed that they would be able to do it, he felt that, no matter what, he had to reach Kagami’s expectations. Even though Himuro often felt uneasy, but because he and Kagami were always together, this uneasiness was hidden.

The wet windows showed Himuro with a painful expression.

Himuro made a self-deprecating smile.

“Look, this is how childish I am. am not as amazing as Taiga thinks I am – “

“Take back that previous line,” Alex suddenly spoke. Her voice was full of sincerity. “Tatsuya, you are not only a child, but you also a gentle person.”

“..... No, I’m not. I am a selfish person,” saying this, as if he did not want to betray someone’s trust, he pushed out his chest. “A selfish person like me doesn’t feel remorseful!”

Stopping the car, Alex looked at the surprised Himuro seriously.

“You are a gentle child, a clever one, at that.” – Even the ‘smart’ part was too much, it was really saddening.

Wanting to say something, but not quite getting the right words, Alex could only bend over to Himuro and give him a kiss. Himuro turned beet-red.

“A-Alex! I already told you, kisses are for intimate people!”

“I have to reward hardworking children!”

Alex winked and smiled slyly. “And you should already be used to it.”

“U-Used to what?!”

Himuro covered the cheek that had been kissed with one hand, his mouth agape.

“..... Really! I don’t want it!” he said, and turned to the window.

“What! To think that I went out of my way to give you a reward!”

Alex lowered her shoulders in an exaggerated manner, before starting up the car again.

You are very gentle. Alex said softly in her heart. Tatsuya is gentle, Taiga is pure. Pure Taiga dreaming alongside with Tatsuya, with gentle Tatsuya wanting to protect him. Taiga was pure as he admires tatsuya, while tatsuya was gentle as he wants to protect taiga, and yet they are only ten and eleven years old.

Kagami had yet to realised how significant this one year gap was. The more Kagami admired Himuro, the more Himuro had to force himself to fit his expectations.

How long more will their relationship continue? Alex was at a loss. Tatsuya is smart. This intelligence will teach him how to put a distance between him and others, teach him how to protect himself, and teach him how to control his emotions. And yet, Taiga, on the other hand –thinking about this, Alex could not help but laugh.

Kagami do not like to think a lot Even if one day they were to split paths, they would still be her beloved diciples. And no matter what, they would always have basketball as a link. One day, the answer would be found.

“What are you laughing at?”

Himuro, still looking uncomfortable, asked Alex.

Alex laughed before answering, “Hmm - ? Its nothing, I was just thinking that tomorrow, at this time, both your buttocks would be beaten until they are red!”

“Hey! They wouldn’t be spanking us in this sort of situation, would they?”

“Who knows - ! I’m really looking forward to tomorrow!”

Bringing Himuro, who was even more uncomfortable than ever, as well as Kagami who was happily asleep, Alex continued driving in the rain. With one hand on the steering wheel, with the other ruffling his hair, Alex said again in her heart, “Really, I’m looking forward to your futures.”

source - [HERE](#)